

NAACP GOLDEN JUBILEE, 1909-1959 — NEW YORK CITY JULY 13-19

# *The* CRISIS

FEBRUARY, 1959

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of*

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**a unique opportunity to  
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the NAACP in a truly  
significant way**

Among the readers of this magazine, we seek 50 dedicated leaders. As a magnificent inspiration to our 50th Anniversary Celebration and to our 1959 Fighting Fund for Freedom Dinner, we ask each of these 50 devoted people to assume the responsibility for securing, beyond the activities of his local NAACP chapter, at least \$5,000 in funds. This sorely needed financial support may be secured by making a personal contribution, by securing Life Memberships, by soliciting contributions to the Fighting Fund for Freedom, or by any combination of these three methods. The challenge is great; so is the need. Let the leaders step forward now.

Write, wire or phone to any of the three co-chairman listed below.

**KIVIE KAPLAN**

**JACKIE ROBINSON**

**DR. GEORGE CANNON**

**Care of NAACP, 20 West 40th Street, New York 16, N. Y.**

# THE CRISIS

Founded 1910  
REG. U. S. PAT. OFF.

## A RECORD OF THE DARKER RACES

Editor: James W. Ivy

Editorial Advisory Board: Lewis S. Gannett, Arthur B. Spingarn,  
Sterling A. Brown, Carl Murphy

Vol. 66, No. 2

Whole Number 560

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February, 1959

#### COVER

Margaret Gordan Smith, 20, is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Herman T. Smith of New York City. She is a graduate of George Washington High School, Howard University, and is now majoring in psychology at Hunter College, New York City.

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DR. OWEN WALKER pins an orchid on Mrs. Eva Manuel, chairman of the Columbus, Ohio, branch freedom fund campaign. In the background are Mrs. Lydia Burkes and Mrs. Betty Brewer, co-chairman of the Marguerite Belafonte Style Show which netted the branch more than \$1,700.



*Cecil Layne*

**KIVIE KAPLAN**, co-chairman of the NAACP national life membership committee, pins the gold life membership emblem on Mrs. Lillian M. Cannon of New York City. Mrs. Cannon is the wife of Dr. George D. Cannon, who is chairman of the New York City life membership committee. Both Dr. and Mrs. Cannon are fully paid life members of the NAACP.

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FEBRUAR

# How the NAACP Began

**F**IFTY years ago when the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was conceived, the outlook for the Negro in America was bleak. The early demise of the race had been authoritatively predicted by a famous statistician. Negroes were being speeded along to this dismal end by semi-weekly lynching parties which strung them up, shot them down, or roasted them alive. In between lynching bees, furious mobs, bent on accelerating the process of extermination, hunted down Negro men, women and children in the streets of Atlanta, Springfield, Ill., and other cities.

In the South, the Negro had been stripped of his basic citizenship rights which had been purchased in blood. He had been disfranchised and the caste restrictions of slavery had been legalized throughout the region through revision of state constitutions. The United States Supreme Court had turned its back on the Negro's plea for enforcement of the Fourteenth and Fifteenth Amendments to the Constitution. Neither the President nor the Congress of the United States lifted a finger to shield

him from the blows of his enemies. He was being driven from jobs which he had traditionally held and his children were being cheated of an education.

Strenuous efforts were being made to extend the southern doctrine into the northern states, where the Abolitionist zeal was beginning to wane. Segregation in education was taking hold in certain northern cities. Discrimination in the trade unions was widespread. Negroes were frequently denied access to public accommodations, state civil rights laws notwithstanding.

Such was the climate in the nation when, on the centennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, February 12, 1909, a group of 53 white and Negro clergymen, social workers, publicists, educators and philanthropists called upon "all the believers in democracy to join in a national conference for the discussion of present evils, the voicing of protests, and the renewal of the struggle for civil and political liberty."

The call, written by Oswald Garrison Villard, then publisher of *The New York Evening Post* and of *The Nation*, originated in the mind of



*The Call originated in her mind, Mary White Ovington (1865-1951) . . .*

Mary White Ovington, a New York social worker, who had been horrified by a bloody race riot in Springfield, Illinois, in the summer of 1908, and who had responded to the challenge of William English Walling, a southern-born journalist, who had concluded an article on the riot in *The Independent Magazine* with this query: "Yet who realizes the seriousness of the situation, and what large and powerful body of citizens is ready to come to their [the Negroes'] aid?"

Miss Ovington was ready. She enlisted the aid of Dr. Henry Mos-

kowitz, a social worker among immigrants in New York City who later became influential in Democratic politics in the city and state. Also she secured the assistance of Mr. Walling and later of Mr. Villard who cherished his Abolitionist heritage as a grandson of William Lloyd Garrison, the uncompromising editor of *The Liberator*, the anti-slavery journal. Mr. Walling and Dr. Moskowitz met with Miss Ovington in her New York apartment during the first week of 1909. Later she was to write: "It was then that the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People was born."

The call, which was actually a call for a meeting to be held, was issued on Lincoln's birthday, February 12, 1909. It was Oswald Gar-



*. . . this fighting liberal, Charles Edward Russell (1860-1941), was one of the signers . . .*

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... of *The Call* written by Oswald Garrison Villard (1872-1949).

garrison Villard, president of the New York Evening Post Company, who drafted the Lincoln's birthday call and helped to give it wide publicity.

Here is the Call in its entirety with the names of the people who signed it:

## AGITATION

Some good friends of the cause we represent fear agitation. They say: "Do not agitate—do not make a noise; *work*." They add, "Agitation is destructive or at best negative—what is wanted is positive constructive work."

Such honest critics mistake the function of agitation. A toothache is agitation. Is a toothache a good thing? No. Is it therefore useless? No. It is supremely useful, for it tells the body of decay, dyspepsia and death. Without it the body would suffer unknowingly. It would think: All is well, when lo! danger lurks.

The same is true of the Social Body. Agitation is a necessary evil to tell of the ills of the Suffering. Without it many a nation has been lulled to false security and preened itself with virtues it did not possess.

The function of this Association is to tell this nation the crying evil of race prejudice. It is a hard duty but a necessary one—a divine one. It is Pain; Pain is not good but Pain is necessary. Pain does not aggravate disease—Disease causes Pain. Agitation does not mean Aggravation—Aggravation calls for agitation in order that Remedy may be found. Editorial, *The Crisis*, Vol. I, No. 1, November, 1910.

"The celebration of the Centennial of the birth of Abraham Lincoln, widespread and grateful as it may be, will fail to justify itself if it takes no note of and makes no recognition of the colored men and women for whom the great Emancipator labored to assure freedom. Besides a day of rejoicing, Lincoln's birthday in 1909 should be one of taking stock of the nation's progress since 1865.

"How far has it lived up to the obligations imposed upon it by the Emancipation Proclamation? How far has it gone in assuring to each and every citizen, irrespective of color, the equality of opportunity and equality before the law, which underlie our American institutions and are guaranteed by the Constitution?

"If Mr. Lincoln could revisit this country in the flesh, he would be disheartened and discouraged. He would learn that on January 1, 1909,

Georgia had rounded out a new confederacy by disfranchising the Negro, after the manner of all the other Southern States. He would learn that the Supreme Court of the United States, supposedly a bulwark of American liberties, had refused every opportunity to pass squarely upon this disfranchisement of millions, by laws avowedly discriminatory and openly enforced in such manner that the white men may vote and black men be without a vote in their government; he would discover, therefore, that taxation without representation is the lot of millions of wealth-producing American citizens, in whose hands rests the economic progress and welfare of an entire section of the country.

"He would learn that the Supreme Court, according to the official statement of one of its own judges in the Berea College case, has laid down the principle that if an individual State chooses, it may 'make it a crime for white and colored persons to frequent the same market place at the same time, or appear in an assemblage of citizens convened to consider questions of a public or political nature in which all citizens, without regard to race, are equally interested.'

"In many states Lincoln would find justice enforced, if at all, by judges elected by one element in a community to pass upon the liberties and lives of another. He would see the black men and women, for whose freedom a hundred thousand of soldiers gave their lives, set apart in trains, in which they pay first-class fares for third-class service, and segregated in railway stations and in places of entertainment; he would observe that State after State declines to do its elementary duty in preparing the Negro through education for the best exercise of citizenship.

"Added to this, the spread of lawless attacks upon the Negro, North, South, and West — even in the Springfield made famous by Lincoln — often accompanied by revolting brutalities, sparing neither sex nor age nor youth, could but shock the author of the sentiment that 'government of the people, by the people, for the people; should not perish from the earth.'

"Silence under these conditions means tacit approval. The indifference of the North is already responsible for more than one assault upon democracy, and every such attack reacts as unfavorably upon whites as upon blacks. Discrimination once permitted cannot be bridled; recent history in the South shows that in forging chains for the Negroes the white voters are forging chains for themselves. 'A house divided against itself cannot stand'; this government cannot exist half-slave and half-free any better to-day than it could in 1861.

"Hence we call upon all the believers in democracy to join in a national conference for the discussion of present evils, the voicing of protests, and the renewal of the struggle for civil and political liberty."

JANE ADDAMS, Chicago  
SAMUEL BOWLES,  
(Springfield Republican)  
PROF. W. L. BULKLEY, New York

HARRIET STANTON BLATCH,  
New York  
IDA WELLS BARNETT, Chicago  
E. H. CLEMENT, Boston

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KATE H. CLAGHORN, New York  
 PROF. JOHN DEWEY, New York  
 DR. W. E. B. DuBOIS, Atlanta  
 MARY E. DREIER, Brooklyn  
 DR. JOHN L. ELLIOTT, New York  
 WILLIAM LLOYD GARRISON,  
 Boston  
 REV. FRANCIS J. GRIMKE,  
 Washington, D. C.  
 WILLIAM DEAN HOWELLS,  
 New York  
 RABBI EMIL G. HIRSCH, Chicago  
 REV. JOHN HAYNES HOLMES,  
 New York  
 PROF. THOMAS C. HALL, New York  
 HAMILTON HOLT, New York  
 FLORENCE KELLEY, New York  
 REV. FREDERICK LYNCH,  
 New York  
 HELEN MAROT, New York  
 JOHN E. MILHOLLAND, New York  
 MARY E. McDOWELL, Chicago  
 PROF. J. G. MERRILL, Connecticut  
 DR. HENRY MOSKOWITZ,  
 New York  
 LEONORA O'REILLY, New York  
 MARY W. OVINGTON, New York  
 REV. DR. CHARLES H.  
 PARKHURST, New York  
 LOUIS F. POST, Chicago  
 REV. DR. JOHN P. PETERS,  
 New York  
 DR. JANE ROBBINS, New York  
 CHARLES EDWARD RUSSELL,  
 New York  
 JOSEPH SMITH, Boston  
 ANNA GARLIN SPENCER,  
 New York  
 WILLIAM M. SALTER, Chicago  
 J. G. PHELPS STOKES, New York  
 JUDGE WENDELL STAFFORD,  
 Washington  
 HELEN STOKES, Boston  
 LINCOLN STEFFENS, Boston  
 PRESIDENT C. F. THWING,  
 Western Reserve University  
 PROF. W. I. THOMAS, Chicago  
 OSWALD GARRISON VILLARD,  
 New York  
 RABBI STEPHEN S. WISE,  
 New York

BISHOP ALEXANDER WALTERS,  
 New York  
 DR. WILLIAM H. WARD, New York  
 HORACE WHITE, New York  
 WILLIAM ENGLISH WALLING,  
 New York  
 LILLIAN D. WALD, New York  
 DR. J. MILTON WALDRON,  
 Washington, D. C.  
 MRS. RODMAN WHARTON,  
 Philadelphia  
 SUSAN P. WHARTON, Philadelphia  
 PRESIDENT MARY E. WOOLLEY,  
 Mt. Holyoke College  
 PROF. CHARLES ZUEBLIN, Boston

Both Negro and white men and women actively participated in the conference which was held in New York City, May 31 and June 1, 1909, in response to the call. It was a small but eminent group that gathered for this first "national conference for the discussion of present evils, the voicing of protests, and the renewal of the struggle for civil and political liberty." Included in the number were many of the signers of the call.

W.E.B. DuBois, the brilliant leader of the "talented tenth," came up from the Deep South where he was occupying the chair of economics at Atlanta University. Down from Boston came William Monroe Trotter, the highly articulate and impatient editor of *The Guardian*. Also from Boston came Moorfield Storey who had been secretary to Charles Sumner and was to become the first president of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People. The Midwest was represented by such feminine stalwarts as Jane Addams, Ida Wells-Barnett and Celia Parker Woolley of Chicago, and by Charles P. Thwing



*Founder of The Crisis and one of the signers of The Call, Dr. W. E. B. DuBois (1868- ).*

and W.S. Scarborough, presidents, respectively, of Western Reserve and Wilberforce universities in Ohio.

John Dewey, who was beginning his great career at Columbia University, was there. Also Rabbi Stephen S. Wise, Rev. John Haynes Holmes, Rev. E. Moore, Charles Edward Russell, Mary Church Terrell, Bishop Alexander Walters, Albert E. Pillsbury, R. R. Wright, Archibald H. Grimke, Mary McLean, Leonora O'Reilly, William A. Sinclair, John E. Milholland, Lillian D. Wald, Frances Blascoer, who became the NAACP's first executive secretary, and Rev. C. E. Stowe, the son of Harriet Beecher Stowe.

William Hayes Ward, editor of *The Independent*, presided at the opening session. There were scholar-

ly papers by such authorities as Livingston Farrand, professor of anthropology at Columbia University; Burt G. Wilder, neurologist of Cornell University; Edwin R. A. Seligman, professor of political economy at Columbia; Professor Dewey; and Dr. DuBois.

Miss Ovington, of course, and her co-sponsors, Moskowitz, Villard and Walling, were active participants in the conference along with many others. All in all, it was a distinguished gathering of educators, scholars, clergymen, social workers, publicists and philanthropists. There was an encouraging letter from William Lloyd Garrison, confined to his home in Boston. And another from Brand Withlock, the great liberal mayor of Toledo, Ohio.

A Committee of Forty was named to call another conference and to develop a permanent organization tentatively called the "Committee for the Advancement of the Negro Race." The committee was composed of the following: William English Walling, chairman, New York; Rev. W. H. Brooks, New York; Prof. John Dewey, New York; Paul Kennedy, New York; Jacob W. Mack, New York; Mrs. Mary MacLean, New York; Dr. Henry Moskowitz, New York; John E. Milholland, New York; Miss Leonora O'Reilly, New York; Charles Edward Russell, New York; Prof. Edwin R. A. Seligman, New York; Oswald Garrison Villard, New York; Miss Lillian D. Wald, New York; Bishop Alexander Walters, New York; Dr. Stephen S. Wise, New York; Miss Mary White Ovington, New York; Dr. O. M. Waller, New York; Rev. John Haynes Holmes, New York; Prof.

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W. L. Buckley, Ridgefield Park, New Jersey; Miss Maria Baldwin, Boston, Mass.; Archibald H. Grimke, Boston, Mass.; Albert E. Pillsbury, Boston, Mass.; Moorfield Storey, Boston, Mass.; Charles P. Thwing, Cleveland, Ohio; W. S. Scarborough, Wilberforce, Ohio; Miss Jane Adams, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. C. E. Bentley, Chicago, Ill.; Mrs. Celia Parker Woolley, Chicago, Ill.; Dr. William Sinclair, Philadelphia; Miss Susan Wharton, Philadelphia; R. R. Wright, Jr., Philadelphia; L. M. Hershaw, Washington, D. C.; Judge Wendell P. Stafford, Washington, D. C.; Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, Washington, D. C.; Rev. J. Milton Waldron, Washington, D. C.; Dr. W. E. B. DuBois, Atlanta; Leslie Pinckney Hill, Manassas, Va.; Jacob H. Schiff and Joseph Fein of New York City.

Not all those who were invited to participate in the conference accepted. Among those who chose to keep their distances were Booker T. Washington, principal of Tuskegee Institute, Alabama; Seth Low, president, Columbia University; Andrew Carnegie, the philanthropist and steel magnate; Thomas Wentworth Higginson, author and commander of Negro troops in the Civil War; and Francis Lynde Stetson.

The Committee of Forty got immediately to work. The services of Frances Blascoer were secured as secretary and office space was made available in *The Nation* building at 20 Vesey Street in lower Manhattan. The Committee arranged for the second conference which was held in New York City in May, 1910.

"It was then," Miss Ovington was later to write, "that we organized a permanent body to be known as the

National Association for the Advancement of Colored People." The first officers of the new organization were: Moorfield Storey of Boston, president; William English Walling, chairman of the executive committee; John E. Milholland, treasurer; Oswald Garrison Villard, disbursing treasurer; Frances Blascoer, executive secretary; and W.E.B. DuBois, director of publicity and research.

The new organization was formally incorporated on June 6, 1911. The certificate of incorporation was signed on May 25, 1911, by W.E.B. DuBois, John Haynes Holmes, Oswald Garrison Villard, Walter E. Sachs and Mary White Ovington. Listed as directors in the certificate are Moorefield Storey, Boston, Mass.; John E. Milholland, New York City; Bishop Alexander Walters, New York City; Oswald Garrison Villard, New York City; Walter E. Sachs, New York City; Dr. William E. B. DuBois, New York City; Miss Mary White Ovington, Brooklyn; Rev. William H. Brooks, New York City; Dr. John Lovejoy Elliott, Ethical Culture Society, New York City; Thomas Ewing, Jr., New York City; Rev. John Haynes Holmes, Brooklyn; Mrs. Florence Kelley, New York City; Paul Kennaday, New York City; Mrs. Frances R. Keyser, New York City; Mrs. Mary D. MacLean, New York City; Rev. A. Clayton Powell, New York City; Charles Edward Russell, New York City; Prof. Joel E. Spingarn, New York City; Miss Lillian D. Wald, New York City; William English Walling, New York City; Dr. Owen M. Waller, Brooklyn; W. L. Buckley, Ridgefield Park, N.J.; Albert E. Pillsbury, Boston; Miss Jane Ad-

dams, Hull House, Chicago; Mrs. Ida B. Wells-Barnett, Chicago; Dr. Charles E. Bentley, Chicago; Dr. Noah F. Mossell, Philadelphia; Dr. William A. Sinclair, Philadelphia; Mrs. Mary Church Terrell, Washington and Rev. J. Milton Waldron, Washington.



*Cecil Layne*

**THE GOTHAMETTES, INC.**, of New York City have joined the ranks of fully-paid NAACP life members. Pictured (from l.) displaying their Club's NAACP life membership plaque are Mrs. Blanche Levy Graves, former president; Mrs. Marjorie Rochester and Bettye F. Cromwell, co-chairmen of the Gothamettes fund raising committee.

■ NAACP's secretary makes a report on progress and trends during 1958

# Race Relations in the U.S.A., 1958

By Roy Wilkins

THE election returns of November 4 may well prove to be the most significant development in the area of race relations in the United States during 1958. The number of avowed advocates of civil rights elected to both Houses of Congress enhances the opportunity for the enactment of additional human rights legislation during the 86th Congress. A revision of Senate Rule 22 to make it possible to stop a filibuster by majority vote also seems probable as the result of the election.

Outside of the South, liberals of both parties were elected to office. The returns may be interpreted as indicating a trend away from standpat conservatism not only in civil rights but also in social legislation. Even in the South, Senators Albert Gore of Tennessee and Ralph Yarborough of Texas, both moderates, were elected over opponents committed to defiance of the United States Supreme Court's desegregation decrees.

Negro citizens and others who believe in implementation of the Court's rulings and in the enactment of civil rights measures were heartened by the election returns. Already plans have been formulated to secure congressional action in support of the Supreme Court's decisions as well as of other civil rights measures.

On Sept. 29, the Supreme Court handed down a sweeping decision re-affirming, amplifying and clarifying its historic ruling of May 17, 1954, banning segregation in public education. The decision spelled the doom of the "massive resistance" to desegregation by some Southern states. The Court held unanimously that "the constitutional rights of children not be discriminated against in school admission on the grounds of race or color . . . can neither be nullified openly or directly by state legislators or state executive or judicial officers, nor nullified indirectly by them through evasive schemes for segregation whether attempted

'ingeniously or ingenuously.'" The court banned the use of public funds to support "private" schools.

Meanwhile, pursuant to the policy of "massive resistance," some 16,000 elementary and secondary school pupils, the vast majority of them white boys and girls, were locked out of public schools in Little Rock and in three Virginia communities by actions of Governors Orval E. Faubus of Arkansas and J. Lindsay Almond of Virginia. The makeshift private schools into which many of them have been herded do not appear to be meeting the standards required for admission to colleges. The intransigence of the two governors is exacting a tragic toll of the children of their states. A reaction against this kind of sacrifice has already been indicated by many of the parents as well as by the children.

Despite the school closings and other attempts to evade integration of public school systems in the South, the number of desegregated systems continued to increase in 1958 and now, according to *Southern School News*, amounts to 790 out of a total of 2,890 bi-racial school districts in the border and southern states. In 1958 there were more than 400,000 Negro students enrolled in desegregated school systems as compared with 350,000 in 1957. Meanwhile, another 2,500,000 colored children continued to attend compulsory segregated schools.

#### CHURCHES CALL FOR COMPLIANCE

Four important religious groups voiced support of the Supreme Court's desegregation rulings during

the year. In October the Protestant Episcopal Church's House of Bishops issued a statement calling for equality of opportunity in education, housing, employment and public accommodations "without discrimination and without separation." The following month, both the Roman Catholic Bishops of the United States and the Methodist Council of Bishops issued strong statements in support of the Court's anti-bias rulings. In November, 309 white Protestant and Jewish clergymen in Atlanta called upon "community leaders and state leaders to give creative thought to maintaining a sound public school plan. Such a plan must be consistent with the law of the land, respect and preserve the rights of all citizens and assure the preservation of our system of public education."

#### HOUSING PROBLEM

The denial of freedom of residence, the urban Negro's most serious problem, was attacked by the Commission on Race and Housing, a private group financed by the Fund for the Republic. The report, based on three years of intensive study, recommended federal and community action to eliminate discrimination in housing. Serving on the commission were prominent men in industry, finance, housing and education.

On the negative side were the bombings of churches, synagogues, schools and private homes; the defiance of the Civil Rights Commission by Alabama election officials who refused to cooperate in the investigation of violations of Negroes' right to vote in that state; the high-

handed arrest of three visiting Negro clergymen in Birmingham on suspicion of planning to urge Birmingham Negroes to refrain from riding city buses as long as they are segregated; and the sentencing of two 8-and 9-year-old Negro boys to a reformatory in Monroe, N. C., because one of them was kissed by a little white girl playmate.

Two of the school bombings are significant in that they occurred in schools where desegregation was underway without overt incident, although in Clinton, Tennessee, there had been trouble in 1956. The Clinton dynamiting and that of the Atlanta Jewish Temple attracted nationwide attention and hardened public opinion against lawless and violent defiance of the courts.

The revelation of the crude manner in which Negro citizens are denied the right to register and vote in Alabama, and the defiance of the requests of the Civil Rights Commission for records and other testimony gave impetus to the demand for the enactment of additional and stronger civil rights legislation by the 86th Congress.

The segregationists lost ground during 1958.

The year was marked, also, by in-

creased activity of the federal government in the civil rights field. Two forthright speeches by Attorney General William P. Rogers, especially the one to the American Bar Association convention in Los Angeles, left no doubt that the government would take vigorous measures to secure enforcement of federal court orders and to uphold the Supreme Court.

The Department of Justice moved expeditiously in the Little Rock situation, not only with extra U.S. marshals ready for service in Little Rock, but with briefs, petitions and arguments in the Eight Circuit Court of Appeals and in the U.S. Supreme Court.

Arthur S. Flemming, Secretary of Health, Education and Welfare, issued a strong statement on the closing of public schools, with clear warnings of the injury to the national welfare. The Civil Rights Commission held its hearing on the denial of voting rights in Montgomery, Alabama, and will hold another on housing in New York. President Eisenhower has denounced both the bombings of houses of worship and the refusal of Alabama authorities to obey subpoenas of the Civil Rights Commission.

**NAACP GOLDEN JUBILEE — 1909-1959**

**50th ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION JULY 13-19**

**NEW YORK CITY**



*E. F. Joseph*

**MRS. MARTHA MONTGOMERY (R)**, president of the Phyllis Wheatley Club of the East Bay, Oakland, California, proudly displays the Club's first NAACP life membership plaque and at the same time presents a check to Mrs. Frankie Jones, president of the Berkeley branch, as payment towards the Club's second life membership.

■ The author's twenty-third annual summary, with paragraph reviews, of books by Negro authors

# Books by Negro Authors in 1958

By Arthur B. Spingarn

THIS résumé (the twenty-third annual one published in *The Crisis*), following the practice adopted in previous years, notices all books and selected pamphlets in English by Negro authors (in accordance with the United States definition of "Negro") published during 1958 that have come to the compiler's attention. It includes a few that appeared in 1957 seen too late to be included in that year's résumé. It is necessarily incomplete and, as heretofore, omits mention of works in foreign languages (except those written by natives of the United States), many of them important.

No comments are made on books that have been reviewed in *The Crisis* (other than to indicate where such

reviews may be found), or on the listed pamphlets.

## I. BOOKS

ACHEBE, CHINERA: *Things Fall Apart*. London: Heineman. 185pp 15sh

An excellent novel of Nigerian tribal life showing its destruction with the white man's coming at the end of the 19th century.

AMANAOO, J. G.: *The New Ghana. The birth of a nation*. London: Pan Books Ltd. 145pp 2sh 6d

The story of the decade 1947-1957, from Nkrumah's return to the achievement of independence. Well and objectively told.

AUSTIN, EDMUND C.: *The Black Challenge*. New York: Vantage Press. 230pp \$3.75

A novel on the theme of "Back to Africa," largely ironic, but with an underlying serious purpose.

BLACK AND UNKNOWN BARDS: *A Collection of Negro poetry*. Aldington,

ARTHUR B. SPINGARN is president of the NAACP. One of his serious interests is the collecting of books by Negro authors.

Kent, England. The Hand and Flower Press. 44pp 3sh

A selection originally made for a poetry recital presented at the Royal Court Theatre, London, in September 1958

BEAVER, JOSEPH T., JR.: *I Want You to Know Wendell Phillips Dabney*. Mexico City. 47 pp

A warm hearted picture of a unique character, the many gifted editor of the *Cincinnati Union*.

BETT, MONGO: *Mission Accomplished*. Translated by Peter Green. New York: The Macmillan Company. 201pp \$3.50

A light-hearted picture of the impact of an educated native upon his own bush folk of the French Cameroons. The original English edition is entitled *Mission to Kala*.

BOYKIN, JAMES H.: *The Negro in North Carolina Prior to 1861*. New York: The Pageant Press. 84pp \$3.00

A short but thorough historical monograph.

BREWER J. MASON: "Dog Ghosts" and other Texas Negro Folk Tales. Drawings by John T. Biggins. Austin, Texas. University of Texas Press. 124pp \$3.95

An important contribution to the subject by a distinguished and veteran folklorist.

BROWN, FRANK: *Trumbull Park*. Chicago: Henry Regnery Co. 448pp \$3.95

A detailed study of the racial and class tensions in this strife-torn area of Chicago, Illinois.

CAREW, JAN: *A Touch of Midas*. New York: Coward-McCann, Inc. 288pp \$3.75

A first novel by a gifted British

Guiana novelist, originally published in England under the title *Black Midas*.

CAREW, JAN: *The Wild Coast*. London, Secker & Warburg 256pp 16sh

The story of the education for life of a Dutch-Creole boy growing up in British Guiana; episodic in form.

CHRISTIAN, MARCUS: *High Ground*. New Orleans: The Southern Publishing Co. 20pp \$2.50

An interesting collection of poems published in commemoration of the United States Supreme Court decision abolishing segregation in the public schools.

COLLINS, SYDNEY: *Coloured Minorities in Britain*. London: The Lutterworth Press. 258pp 21sh

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for June-July at page 378.

COLES, ARTHUR A.: *Seven Sermons That Can Change Your Life*. New York: Exposition Press. 80pp \$3.00

Sermons of a pastor who is also a practicing chiropractor.

CROMWELL, OTELIA: *Lucretia Mott*. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press 241pp \$5.75

A scholarly and fully documented biography of one of America's great women who was an ardent abolitionist.

DEBERRY, FRANCES C.: *All the World's A Stage for Shakespeare's Comedies*. New York: Exposition Press. 130pp \$3.50

A modern interpretation of the Bard's humor. Essays on Shakespeare and his comedies by a winner of \$16,000 on "The \$64,000 Question" program.

DEGRAFT-JOHNSON, J. C.: *African Experiment. Cooperative Agriculture and Banking in British West Africa*. This important book was announced



for publication but has not been seen by the compiler.

DREER, HERMAN: *The Tie That Binds*. Us. Boston: Meador Publishing Co. 374pp \$3.00

A novel about a youth who seeks to understand life.

GIBSON, ALTHEA: *I Always Wanted To Be Somebody*. New York: Harper & Brothers. 175pp \$3.00

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for December 1958 at page 647.

GIBSON, RICHARD: *A Mirrour For Magistrates*. A novel. London: Anthony Blond 171pp 12sh 6d

A powerful story of a returned and wounded Negro soldier evoking an atmosphere of doom and evil. Allegoric in intent.

GICARU, MUGA: *Land of Sunshine*. London: Lawrence & Wishart Ltd. 175pp 16sh

Scenes of Life in Kenya before Mau Mau, with a forward by Trevor Huddleston.

GRAHAM, LORENZ: *South Town*. Chicago: Follett Publishing Co. 189pp \$3.50

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for February 1959 at page 122.

HARRIS, ABRAM: *Economics and Social Reform*. New York: Harper & Brothers. 359pp \$5.00

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for May 1958 at page 314.

HARRINGTON, OLLIE: *Bootsie and Others*. A selection of cartoons. Introduction by Langston Hughes. New York: Dodd Mead & Company. Unpagged. \$3.50

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for October 1958 at page 523.

HEARNE, JOHN: *The Eye of the Storm*.

Boston: Little, Brown & Company. 328pp \$4.00

Originally published in London under the title *The Faces of Love*. The third novel by this talented writer.

HICKS, ESTELLE BELL: *The Golden Apples*. Memoirs of a retired teacher. New York: Exposition Press. 75pp \$3.00

A collection of memoirs and anecdotes, serious and humorous.

HILL, ALBERT LUTHER: *Bible Prophecy for Our Times*. An interpretation. New York: Exposition Press. 61pp \$2.50

Prophecy based on the Bible, by a veteran pastor.

HODGES, GEORGE W.: *Swamp Angel*. New York: New Voices Publishing Company. 128pp \$3.00

A novel of life in a small southern town during a period immediately following the Civil War.

HOLLEY, JOSEPH WINTHROP: *Regnum Montis and Its Contemporary*. Heralding the coming record of Christ in the decade 1995-2005 and the end of the world of things material. New York: The William-Frederick Press. 141pp \$3.00

A posthumous work by the author of *You Can't Build A Chimney From the Top*.

HUGHES, LANGSTON: *The Langston Hughes Reader*. New York: George Braziller, Inc. 502pp \$5.95

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for June-July at page 376.

HUGHES, LANGSTON & ARNA BONTEMPS (Editors): *The Book of Negro Folklore*. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company. 624pp \$6.50

An invaluable collection of fascinating material.

HUGHES, LANGSTON: Famous Negro Heroes in America. New York: Dodd, Mead & Company. 203pp \$3.00

Sixteen biographies of outstanding American Negroes of the past and present designed for young readers.

HUGHES, LANGSTON: Tambourines to Glory. A novel. New York: The John Day Company. 188pp \$3.50

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for January 1959 at page 59.

JOHN, ERROL: Moon on a Rainbow Shawl. A play in three acts. London: Faber & Faber, Ltd. 71pp 5sh

A poignant drama by a native of Trinidad. It won the first prize in the London *Observer* competition and has had successful production in the Provinces and in London.

JONES, THOMAS ALFRED: The Secret. New York: Comet Press Books. 127pp \$3.00

The autobiography of a professional gambler with an expose of the underworld in Washington, D. C.

KING, MARTIN LUTHER, Jr.: Stride Toward Freedom. The Montgomery Story. New York: Harper & Brothers. 230pp \$2.95

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for November 1958 at page 589.

LAMMING, GEORGE: Of Age and Innocence. London: Michael Joseph. 412pp 21s

A story of political agitation and native religious enthusiasm on a West Indian island by this greatly gifted writer. Somewhat overwritten.

LIPSCOMB, KEN: Duke Casanova. A novel. New York: Exposition Press. 76pp \$2.75

A novel of sex and murder.

MAYFIELD, JULIAN: The Long Night. New York: The Vanguard Press, Inc. 156pp \$3.50

The dramatic and gripping story of a frightened Negro boy of ten wandering at night in the streets trying to recoup \$27.00 entrusted to him by his mother and stolen from him.

MITTELHOLZER, EDGAR: The Old Blood. Garden City, N. Y.: Doubleday & Company, Inc.

The final volume of the Van Groeneweg family saga, which began with *The Children of Kaywana* in 1952. The title of the original English edition is *Kaywana Blood*.

MITTELHOLZER, EDGAR: The Weather Family. A novel. London: Secker & Warburg. 339pp 18sh

A story of physical excitement by this able and facile writer. His third book published in 1958.

MITTELHOLZER, EDGAR: With A Carib Eye. London: Secker & Warburg. 193pp 18sh

A collection of pedestrian essays on the British Caribbean scene.

MODUPE, PRINCE: I Was A Savage. New York: Harcourt, Brace & Company. 185pp \$3.95

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for December 1958 at page 645.

MORANT, JOHN J.: Mississippi Minister. New York: Vantage Press. 80pp \$2.50

History of the African Methodist Episcopal Church in Mississippi and Louisiana.

MOTLEY, WILLARD: Let No Man Write My Epitaph. New York: Random House. 467pp \$4.95

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for December 1958 at page 647.

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NATIONAL NEWSPAPERS PUBLISHERS  
ASSOCIATION: *Lighting The Way To  
Freedom*. Washington, D. C. 137pp

A report of the proceedings of the  
Summit Meeting of Negro leaders in  
Washington, D. C. on May 12-13, 1958.

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PIERCE, SAMUEL H.: Excerpts from a  
Morticians Workshop. Atlanta,  
Georgia. Georgia Funeral Directors  
& Embalmers Association. 145pp  
\$5.00

A composite of lectures on services,  
practice, and ethics for morticians by  
one of the leaders of the profession in  
Georgia.

PORTER, DOROTHY B. (Editor): The  
African Collection in the Moreland  
Foundation. Howard University  
Library. Compiled by students. Pro-  
gram of African studies. Washing-  
ton, D. C.: Howard University Press.  
398pp \$6.00

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for October  
1958 at page 525.

PRETTO, CLARITA C.: *The Life of  
Autum Holliday*. New York: Ex-  
position Press. 95pp \$2.75

A first novel by a young native of  
the Virgin Islands, now a resident of  
New York City.

REDDING, SAUNDERS: *The Lonesome  
Road*. The story of the Negro's part  
in America. Garden City, New York:  
Doubleday & Company, Inc. 355pp  
\$5.75

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for April  
1958 at page 247.

REID, VICTOR STAFFORD: *The Leopard*.  
New York: The Viking Press, Inc.  
159pp \$3.00

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for January  
1959 at page 58.

ROBESON, PAUL: *Here I Stand*. New  
York: Othello Associates. 128pp  
Paper \$1.50. Cloth \$2.50

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for March  
1958 at page 189.

ST. JAMES, WARREN D.: *The National  
Association for the Advancement of  
Colored People*. A case study in  
pressure groups. New York: Ex-  
position Press. 255pp \$4.00

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for February  
1959 at page 122.

TARRY, ELLEN: *Katherine Drexel,  
Friend of the Neglected*. New York:  
Farrar, Straus & Cudahy, Inc. 190pp  
\$1.95

The story of the early years of the  
founder of the Sisters of the Blessed  
Sacrament for Indian and Colored  
People, written by an able and ex-  
perienced teller of stories for children.  
Intended for those between 9 and 15.

TERRY-THOMPSON, ARTHUR C.: *The  
History of the African Orthodox  
Church*. N.P., N.D. (New York:  
The author). 139pp \$4.25

An account of the origin, aims, and  
dogma of this unorthodox church.  
Illustrated.

THURMAN, SUE BAILEY (Editor): *The  
Historical Cookbook of the Ameri-  
can Negro*. Washington, D. C.: The  
Corporated Press. 150pp \$2.00

Published by the National Council  
of Negro Women to indicate the his-  
tory of the Negro in American life as  
told by the things they eat. Has many  
illuminating illustrations.

TIMMONS, ELEANOR LEWIS: *Teaching  
English*. New York: Vantage Press  
96pp \$2.50

A book of practical advice for be-  
ginning teachers by a veteran teacher  
and social welfare worker.

TUTUOLA, AMOS: *The Brave African  
Hunters*. Illustrated by Ben En-  
wonwu. New York: Grove Press,  
Inc. 150pp \$3.75

The weird adventures of Adebisi killing the Pigmies and the mysterious animals of the jungles told by this primitive Yoruba author in a style similar to that of his previous three books.

WALCOTT, CLYDE: *Island Cricketers*. London: Hodder and Stoughton. 188pp 16sh

The story of the cricketing career of the famous Barbados cricketer. Illustrated with many pictures of other West Indian players.

WALKER, THOMAS CALHOUN: *The Honey-Pod Tree*. The life story of Thomas Calhoun Walker. New York: The John Day Company. 320pp \$4.50

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for August-September 1958 at page 461.

WASHINGTON, VIVIANE: *Mount Ascutney*. New York: Comet Press Books. 66pp \$2.00

A brief autobiography of a teacher and social worker now working in Baltimore, but born in New Hampshire of West Indian parents.

WILLIAMS, JEROME ARDELL: *The Tin Box*. A story of cattle and oil. New York: Vantage Press. 275pp \$3.50

A novel of intrigue and crime in the Texas oil and cattle region.

WRIGHT, NATHAN, Jr.: *The Song of Mary*. Boston: Bruce Humphries, Inc. 89pp \$2.75

Simple and moving religious verse by the rector of St. Cyprian Church, Boston, who is prominent in community work.

WRIGHT, RICHARD: *The Long Dream*. A novel. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Company, Inc. 384pp \$3.95

Reviewed in *The Crisis* for February 1959 at page 120.

YERBY, FRANK: *The Serpent and the Staff*. New York: The Dial Press. 377pp \$3.95

The thirteenth best seller by this popular author. This time the story is that of a highly trained physician who gives up a successful career to work in the slums.

## II. PAMPHLETS

Among the pamphlets received during 1958, the following may be noted:

BLOUNT, GEORGE WESLEY: *Observations on Life*. New York

BROWN, EUGENE: *Return of the Sun*. New York

DUMMETT, CLIFTON O.: *A Chronology of Significant Facts in the Progress of the Negro in American Denistry*. Tuskegee

FARSI, S. S.: *Swahili Sayings I & II*. Zanzibar

GOHOHO, MOSES FAIRCHILD: *The Gold Coast Adventure*. Accra, Ghana

HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY, FÉLIX: *Black African and the French Union*. New York

HUGHES, LANGSTON & JOHN HOUTLEY: *Tambourines to Glory Gospel Songs*. New York

IVY, JAMES W.: *Present Day Brazilian Race Relations. A Brief Bibliography*. New York

JACKSON, OLIVE SCOTT: *God in the Flesh*. New York

KALE, JOHN K.: *Colonialism is Incompatible with Peace*. Cairo, U.A.R.

KALE, JOHN K.: *Uganda: Colonial Regime Versus Natural Aspirations*. Cairo, U.A.R.

NAACP: *The NAACP and Organized Religion*. New York

NAACP: Civil Rights Crisis of 1957:  
NAACP Annual report 49th Year.  
New York

NAACP: 7 Steps to Political Freedom.  
A Political Primer. New York

NAACP: NAACP 49th Annual Con-  
vention Resolutions. New York

PARKER, JOHN W.: Touches of Comedy  
and Realism in Early Religious  
Plays.

RAY, ARCHIBALD: All Shook Up. New  
York

SOWUNMI, AKINTUNDE: Our Land and  
People Part III. The West Lagos,  
Nigeria

WESTERMAN, GEORGE W.: Now-Self  
Governing Territories and the United  
Nations. Panama

WILKINS, ROY: Integration Must Move.  
New York



JACKIE ROBINSON, co-chairman of the NAACP national life membership committee, presents an NAACP life membership plaque to O. P. Chiles, president of the National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association of North Carolina during their awards banquet in the Hotel New Yorker, New York City. Robert Miller, general secretary of NFDMA, holds the NAACP life membership plaque. NFDMA has collected more than \$800 in NAACP life memberships and freedom contributions.

- How this group successfully organized a musical entertainment for the national freedom fund

# The "Melody Fair" Story

By Jessie Shohan

AT THE JUNE 1958 meeting of the Poughkeepsie, New York, branch, the question of raising some money for the Freedom Fund was brought up, and member Jessie Shohan suggested "some kind of variety show." She was authorized to "go ahead", and thereupon recruited a half dozen members to meet with her on July 9 to work out plans.

At that meeting, Mrs. Shohan suggested that the project should be a general, county-wide event, sponsored not by the NAACP but by an especially created bi-racial committee drawn from all elements of the population. Everyone present agreed to this and authorized Mrs. Shohan to communicate with representative leaders throughout the county who might want to sponsor such an affair. The task of recruiting actual volunteer workers, both Negro and white, started immediately.

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JESSIE SHOHAN is chairman of the Executive Committee of the Poughkeepsie, New York, branch.

Sponsorship by ministers of all faiths was enlisted by a minister branch member. Dr. Sarah Gibson Blanding, president of Vassar College, sent a letter to educators, social workers, business men, civil and community leaders, professional men and women throughout the county. Most of the sponsors were enlisted in this way and they helped to secure other sponsors. Mrs. Eleanor Roosevelt accepted the post of Honorary Chairman. A letterhead listing the Sponsoring Committee and officers was prepared; this proved helpful in securing wide cooperation from people in all sectors of the county's population.

"Melody Fair" was selected as the name for the event, and the auditorium of the Poughkeepsie High School, seating 1425 people, was reserved for Saturday evening, November 1.

The group of working volunteers grew rapidly as word was spread about the venture. For many it was the first experience they had had to meet whites on a basis of full equality, easy fraternization, and devotion

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to a common cause. The workers met weekly after September 10. In all, sixty-two men and women attended these meetings, got reports on what was being done, discussed next steps, made suggestions, and received job assignments. Dedication to the immediate task erased all consciousness of differences in color, race, religion, politics, and economic or social status. As the period of preparation drew to a close, the entire group felt exhilarated and inspired by this experience in complete integration.

The work itself was divided into four sections: publicity, souvenir program, concert program, and ticket distribution. A volunteer with special experience in each area was appointed to head up the work, with authority to select his or her own aides. A local bank official became treasurer and an account was opened in the name of "The Melody Fair Committee."

#### MASS MEDIA HELPED

Publicity started immediately and was planned to increase in scope and tempo as the target date approached. Local radio stations contributed generously not only of time for news reports about the show, but for spot announcements which, during the final week, came four times daily. News stories went out to the weekly papers in outlying areas, as well as to the dailies in the larger towns. Sponsors and volunteers spread the message in their personal circles, in their neighborhoods, churches, and organizations. Ministers told about it from the pulpit. Posters, the contribution of a large printing concern, were distributed by workers and were displayed in stores and other

public places. The announcement that Jackie Robinson would be master of ceremonies created wide interest in the affair.

Programming, too, started early. It was decided that this should be a real Fair, with something for everybody, "from Bach to the Blues." The program chairman assembled a consulting staff consisting of the heads of the music departments at Vassar and Bard colleges, a leader in the local Philharmonic Society, and other professional experts, and her committee included a youth leader and a social worker who were in position to search out talented artists throughout the community. The program was a balanced one: for the first time many were enabled to hear eminent artists play and sing serious music. And for the first time many others heard "rock n' roll" music of exceptional quality—and they liked it. (There were three such groups, two vocal, one instrumental, selected after many auditions).

Preparation of the souvenir program dominated the work-meeting during September. Dummy forms for advertisements were distributed, with a "script" containing the basic approach; then cards of prospective space-buyers were distributed to those who felt they could best contact them. Until late in September workers were asked to limit their solicitation to these cards and other prospects in their immediate circle in order to avoid the annoyance and wasted effort of overlapping calls. At each meeting workers reported on their achievements, and were duly applauded. At the end of the third week in September they were given carte blanche to solicit and sell ad-



vertising space wherever they could. When the souvenir program went to the printer on October 15, over \$1500 worth of "ads" had been sold. The printer, one of Melody Fair's sponsors, made up the 24-page program booklet at actual cost.

By the first week in October the signal was given to the ticket chairman to get started on ticket sales. Tickets were priced at \$1.00 for general admission, with seats in a reserved section costing \$2.00. The ticket chairman instructed the workers carefully, and these instructions were repeated at each meeting: Each worker should secure "sub-salesmen"; every ticket must be accounted for, either returned or paid for, not later than three days before the night of the show; each worker shall be responsible for the price of each ticket, or the return of the unsold ticket. Workers were discouraged from taking large blocks of tickets. They could secure more when their first supplies were gone. By October 15 the sixty-two workers, and perhaps twice that number of sub-salesmen," had some \$3,500 worth of tickets sold or in their hands.

#### PERSONAL VISITS

From then on the ticket chairman contacted workers frequently by telephone, personal visits and letters, collecting money for tickets sold, taking tickets back from workers who were not making headway and redistributing them to other workers, getting volunteers to help in enlisting new workers in areas not being covered. At each meeting of volunteers, they reported on their

sales, turned in money, took more tickets or returned those they could not sell. Tickets were also placed on sale in stores and other places, but this method of distribution proved valueless.

When advance ticket sales were stopped, three days before the event, there was \$2,500 in the bank from ticket sales (in addition to the souvenir-program returns) and cash contributions. Over \$200.00 more came in before the show date, and ticket sales at the door (limited by availability of seating space) brought in several hundred dollars more.

The reason why the ticket chairman insisted upon full settlement of tickets is obvious. It was important to know, well in advance, how well tickets were moving so that necessary steps might be taken to step up lagging sales, by publicity, increased sales force, redistribution of tickets, etc. Keeping in touch with workers helped to gauge weaknesses in organization or publicity in areas covered by them. Above all, settlement of tickets after the event might prove difficult, might antagonize volunteers, might cause confusion on the night of the show and a deluge of returns and unused tickets after the show—especially if the weather were bad.

By the morning of November 1 the house was oversold. Our workers reported that they were being besieged for tickets — and they had none to sell! The final surge of publicity, culminating in comments about "Melody Fair" in Mrs. Roosevelt's "My Day" column, had aroused intense interest. All the workers could say was, "Come early,





**"MELODY FAIR" LEADERS—Mrs. Jessie Shohan, Mrs. Franklin Roosevelt, and Jackie Robinson.**

try your luck at the door. A few reserved section seats may be on sale."

By six thirty that evening people were sitting on the high school steps waiting for the doors to open so that they might line up for tickets. It was a full house, indeed, with people standing in the doorways and even in the outside corridors. NAACP branch members, who had been among the hardest workers, gave up their seats so that other ticket holders might get in.

After the show, all workers, sponsors and cast members went to the high school cafeteria for an informal party. Over cookies, tea, and coffee they got acquainted, discussed future work together, enjoyed the fellowship created by shared ideals of freedom and equality and a big job well done. Mrs. Roosevelt greeted the assembled "guests" and expressed the hope that similar projects might be started in other communities throughout the country.

The total sum brought in by contributions, payments for space in the souvenir program, and ticket sales totalled \$4,564.95. There had been no paid workers, no office, no commissions. Total expenses, including hall rental, printing costs, federal tax, postage, telephone tolls, etc. totalled \$564.93.

A check for \$4,002.02 was sent to the national office for the 1958 freedom fund.

The sponsoring committee for the "Melody Fair" included the following persons: Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt, honorary chairman; Mrs. Abraham Shohan, chairman; Charles A. Butts, Bluford Jackson, John J. Rupsis, Arthur J. Strom, vice-chairmen; Edward L. Hoe, treasurer; and Mrs. Lennox Gruber, secretary. These officers were ably supported by the following committee personnel:

Dr. J. Alfred Adams, Mrs. Susan Aldrich, Dr. and Mrs. Wallace C. Bedell, Dr. Algernon D. Black, Rev.

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NAACP MEMBERS, friends, and guests in attendance at the annual dinner-meeting of the Milwaukee, Wisconsin, branch held in the Hotel Pfister on December 11, 1958.



H. Howard Black, Dr. Thomas L. Blair, Miss Sarah Gibson Blanding, Gaius C. Bolin, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Leon R. Bloom, Mr. and Mrs. James R. Bourne, Dr. Emily C. Brown, Dr. Lyman Bryson, Paul Calabi, Mrs. Homer N. Calver, Miss Courtney Carroll, Dr. and Mrs. Daniel Casner, Rev. Otis E. Charles, Pasquale Calio, Rev. D. George Davies, Mr. and Mrs. Olin Dows, Mr. and Mrs. William Elmo, Rev. Merle S. Erwin, Dr. and Mrs. A. Ettinger, Dr. Josephine Evarts, Mrs. Amelia S. Fabrikant, Dr. and Mrs. Chandler Gibbs, Dr. William J. Haggerty, Dr. James F. Hall, Rt. Rev. Msgr. James P. Hearon, Rabbi Morris Hecht, Dr. Frank W. Herriott, Edwin L. Hunger, Rev. Belvie H. Jackson, Rockwood Jenkins, Rev. Thomas S. Jen-

kins, Felton Jordan, Dr. and Mrs. Henry Noble MacCracken, Dr. Edna MacMahon, Beamon Meadows, Dr. Margaret Meyers, Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Morgan, Rev. Richard S. Mumma, Dr. Mabel Newcomer, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Michael P. O'Shea, Dr. Garrett A. H. Price, Robert E. Randolph, Miss Jennie Reed, Mr. and Mrs. Nathan L. Reifler, Rabbi Julius Rosenthal, Rev. Charles J. Sargent, William Sorenson, Mrs. J. E. Spingarn, Mr. and Mrs. Harold D. Spencer, James R. Stein, Jr., Mr. and Mrs. Hardy Steeholm, Dr. and Mrs. Philip Allen Swartz, Mrs. Philip G. Swartz, Dr. Arthur L. Swift, Rupert I. Tarver, Clayton H. Thompson, Mr. and Mrs. William Toles, Mr. and Mrs. William J. Walsh, Rabbi Erwin Zimet.

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*TWENTY-SEVEN new life membership subscribers and four full-paid life members of the NAACP who were honored at an NAACP dinner in Omaha, Nebraska, on November 24, 1958. W. Robert Ming, national board member from Chicago, Illinois, was the guest speaker. Mr. Ming presented NAACP life membership plaques to the four full-paid life members. Dr. Aaron McMillan, chairman of the NAACP life membership committee, is shown first row (fifth from L) presenting NAACP life membership checks totaling more than \$2,500 to Mr. Ming.*



a **LIFE MEMBERSHIP**  
is a  
small price  
to pay  
for freedom —

**JOIN TODAY!**

Freedom, because it is invaluable, is not easily won. It is a costly commodity . . . costly in time, in sweat, in tears, in money. Many Americans have sacrificed to the utmost in this crucial struggle for full citizenship rights. Can you do less than support the organization which stands for full freedom for colored Americans? Join the NAACP as a Life Member today!

# IN NAACP

## LIFE MEMBERSHIP COMMITTEE

IVIE KAPLAN

JACKIE ROBINSON

DR. BENJAMIN E. MAYS

### CO-CHAIRMEN

Kelly Alexander  
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Hon. Hubert T. Delany  
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Mrs. Arthur H. Frederick  
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Bishop Eugene C. Hatcher  
Hon. Carl R. Johnson  
Dr. Mordecai Johnson  
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Mrs. Daisy E. Lampkin  
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Mrs. Pauline F. Weeden

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your local branch  
or the  
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I wish to become a Life Member of the NAACP.

- ☐ I enclose check for \$.....  
as first payment toward a Life Membership.
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Membership.

Name.....

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City and State.....

Annual installments of as little as \$50.00 or more, sent to  
either your local branch of NAACP or the New York head-  
quarters, can make you a Life Member in this vital crusade.

# Editorials

## FILIBUSTER STILL INTACT

**T**HERE is always a great temptation after an election like that of last November to make sweeping statements. The Democrats made a net gain of thirteen seats from the Republicans, plus the two seats in Alaska. As a result many liberal Democrats began issuing gleeful pronouncements about how they were going to modify Rule XXII in order to impose cloture and stop filibusters. Senator Paul Douglas of Illinois and Senator Clinton Anderson of New Mexico — with the assistance of Republican Jacob Javits of New York and Clifford Case of New Jersey — led the anti-filibuster senators. But Lyndon Johnson, with the assistance of Republican leader Everett Dirksen, overrode the filibuster foes. Adoption of the Johnson "compromise" makes the outlook for any immediate, and meaningful, civil-rights legislation gloomy.

NAACP Executive Secretary Roy Wilkins asserts, in letters to Senators Paul Douglas, Hubert Humphrey, Clifford Case and Jacob Javits, that Senate majority leader Lyndon Johnson of Texas and minority leader Everett Dirksen of Illinois "must be held accountable for the fate of civil-rights legislation in the 86th Congress."

**T**HE Johnson resolution, Mr. Wilkins points out, "will not alter, except in microscopic fashion, the situation which obtained under the old rule," as is indicated by Senator Richard B. Russell's (Georgia) observation that the new rule is just about as effective as the old one.

Under the Old Rule XXII, it was necessary to secure the vote of two-thirds of all senators to stop a filibuster. The new Johnson rule provides for cloture by a vote of two-thirds of the senators present and voting. Furthermore, it affirms the concept of the Senate as a "continuing body," the rules of which carry over from one Congress to another.

This rule, Mr. Wilkins explains, "imposes practically the same handicaps upon the passage of civil-rights bills as have existed since 1917. It has never been possible, under these provisions, to secure cloture on a civil-rights bill.

"As a practical matter, the Senate attendance at a crucial vote on a civil-rights measure has been (and will be) a very close approximation of the entire membership. Since the largest vote for cloture on such a measure (FEPC, 1946) was 55, it makes little difference that the vote for cloture under the Johnson resolution would be reduced from an arbitrary 65 to a possible 57 (84 in attendance . . . 14 absentees). The attendance on a civil-rights vote has always been greater than 84, even with the total membership at 96, instead of the present 98."

**M**R. WILKINS then points out that the Deep South's continuing opposition to public-school desegregation, as well as the defiance of the Civil Rights Commission by Alabama election officials, "leaves no course to the proponents of civil rights but that of insistence upon the introduction and enactment of additional civil-rights legislation which will contain, at the very least, the provisions of the discarded Part III of the 1957 bill. We applaud the announced intention of liberal Republican senators to introduce such a bill. The board provisions of the Douglas bill in the Senate and the Dawson bill in the House are highly desirable since both include the Part III language."

It is patent that methods must be devised by the Senate to prevent filibusters. As long as we have Rule XXII, coupled with the desire of millions of American citizens for effective civil-rights legislation, we shall be faced with filibusters by a bigoted minority of southern senators.

#### TAR HEEL HARLEQUINADE

**T**HE ALMOST unbelievable news out of North Carolina, the "Tar Heel" State, is that two colored boys should be "committed to the Morrison Training School by the Juvenile Court of Union County" for indeterminate terms because one of them was voluntarily kissed by a five-year-old white girl. This case is as ridiculous as that of Max Ingram, a North Carolina Negro farmer, who was convicted in 1951 in Yanceyville for "assault by leering" at a white farm girl from a distance of seventy-five feet. A grand jury later charged Ingram with "assault with intent to commit rape," but he was subsequently freed on the ground that he could not be convicted legally "for what may have been in his mind."

The two boys, James Thompson, 10, and David Simpson, 8, were playing cowboy with some white boys in a ditch, with some white girls as witnesses. Finally, one of the white boys suggested that they play a kissing game and persuaded one of the girls to kiss Thompson. The North Carolina Commissioner of Correction justified confinement of the boys through an attack upon the characters of the mothers and the local reputation of the boys.

**L**AWYERS for the NAACP asked for a writ of habeas corpus in the superior court of Judge Walter E. Johnson, Jr., in January, but the Judge refused to upset the ruling of the juvenile court. The Association, however, will appeal the judge's ruling. In the meantime, the families of the two youngsters have been resettled in Charlotte so that the state will have no excuse for returning the two boys to their families. This is another example of the idiot persistence with which some Southerners read sex into every interracial contact — even that of pre-adolescents.

# Looking and Listening . . .

## WHO'S WHO AMONG WOMEN

**M**ARQUIS—Who's Who, Inc., Chicago, Illinois, issued, in December, 1958, a *Who's Who of American Women*. The total number of listings is 19,671. The why of this book is to meet a demonstrated demand for biographical data about leading American women who are outstanding as women without regard to their achievements or positions in relation to men. Prominent Negroes are included, and the Marquis company has published a partial list of fifty Negro women included in the volume, among whom are Marian Anderson, Daisy Bates, Gwendolyn Brooks, Katherine Dunham, Mahalia Jackson, Eartha Kitt, Muriel Rahn, Philippa Schuyler, Ethel Waters, and Hazel Scott.

## SUBURBAN HOUSING

**C**HARLES ABRAMS, chairman of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination, writes in the *Interracial Review* (December, 1958) on the homogeneity conceit of often culturally disparate suburbanites:

These homes in the suburbs were bought largely by 'little people'—skilled and semi-skilled workers, clerks, small merchants, young professionals, people comprising America's great middle class. Their contact with the city, its culture and civilization was now *en passant*. A common thread binding suburbanites together was not culture

or tradition, or civic pride or national welfare. It was neighborhood dignity. The magazine told them so repeatedly and so did the realtors, the neighborhood associations and even government housing officials.

Neighborhood dignity became synonymous with neighborhood homogeneity, while neighborhood homogeneity gave rise to a concerted effort to keep out the 'wrong people' and the 'foreign element.' Homogeneity thus became a determinant of value, and government field agents were for years instructed to inquire whether the neighborhood was homogeneous in population.

The antipathetic or non-homogeneous type of neighborhood was no longer to be considered a good risk, while even the children were not to mix with others of 'an incompatible racial element,' or to go to the same school, according to the Federal Housing Administration manuals from 1935 to 1950.

The worker who may have had no prejudice against a Negro co-worker was now taught to be prejudicial against him as a neighbor. Housing was built up as a wedge to split class from class. The American neighborhood became a breeding ground for bias, fear and discrimination: a whole generation of American home-owners were exposed to it.

Millions of homes in thousand of neighborhoods were now all patterned upon the placement into isolated areas of people of a common stamp. It led to division of these neighborhoods into those of the 'elite' and the unwanted. It has created sensitive communities that in the long run were economically

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**MILEEN LOUISE MAYER** of Mill Valley, California, is the third fully paid junior NAACP life member in the state of California. Young Miss Mayer's junior life membership was presented to her on her birthday last July 15 by her aunt Dr. Helen D. Mayer, chief anesthetist at Harlem Hospital, New York City. Dr. Mayer is a fully paid-up life member of the NAACP.

and socially unworkable. It has subordinated intelligence to race, religion, income, color, or social status. It has enjoined the children of one section from mixing with those of another. It has created thousands of homogeneous islands which are so only in their fears and which are more foreign to the American tradition than any outsiders they sought to exclude. . . .

## **RAILROAD EMPLOYMENT**

**A**FTER studying the employment patterns of nineteen railroads in New York and New Jersey,

the New York State Commission Against Discrimination (*Railroad Employment in New York and New Jersey*, 1958) concludes:

With the information before us, we see clearly that the historic assignment of Negro workers to menial tasks in the railroad industry continues to be a fact; at the same time, the appearance of some Negro workers in the category of operating transportation, where in the past they have not been employed, indicates plainly the possibility of a wider extension of opportunity for the Negro workman here, as in other categories.

Because of the long tradition that Negro workers will not be accepted in certain categories on railroads—a condition frequently accepted by Negroes themselves—the situation may not change rapidly, unless the management of the railroads will seek to implement a program of fair employment. It is clear that the railroads can further implement fair employment practices by indicating to the Railroad Retirement Board and to other sources of recruitment that the railroads are interested in employing competent Negroes in categories from which, up to now, they have been excluded. The result of such a stated position by the railroads would be to open up a new source of manpower for railroads and to demonstrate for all to see that freedom of opportunity for all is a fact in the railroad industry in these two states.

The argument that the railroad industry is a declining one, and that the operation of fair employment practices would not be significant, is not supported by the evidence presented in this study. The findings show that many Negroes were employed during the three month period when careful records were kept. The study shows further that rosters were exhausted in

many instances, and the railroads were required to go into open market in many of the categories, in some of which, heretofore, Negroes had not been employed.

An affirmative position by the railroads will have the full support of the New Jersey Division Against Discrimination and of the New York State Commission Against Discrimination, and, we believe, will be endorsed by all agencies of government and by those agencies which are sources of recruitment for new workers. Such a policy will denote more than mere compliance with the laws against discrimination; it will add strength to the democratic process in the two states and in the nation.

### LEGISLATION AND SOCIAL CHANGE

THE Connecticut State Commission on Civil Rights has this to say (*Civil Rights Bulletin*, November, 1958) about the effects of legislation upon social change:

The statement is frequently made that you can not change attitudes by law. It is certainly true that statutes can not induce a person or group of people to like or dislike others. However, through legislation, standards of behavior can be set which may lead to changes in attitudes and, more important, improvement in opportunity and more equitable treatment for people previously disadvantaged.

An illustration of this is found in the Fair Employment Practices Act. When the statute was under consideration many people protested its passage claiming other workers would leave any employer who hired Negroes; employers would be forced to hire people because of their creed or color rather than on the basis of occupational qualifications; and such a law would interfere with the right of management and labor organizations to run their own

affairs. This opposition to the bill was overridden and experience has shown that the fears of opponents of the bill were baseless. Workers did not leave their jobs because of the employment of members of minority groups. There have been no claims by employers that they are forced to hire unqualified workers. Redchecks on firms against which complaints have been lodged have frequently shown that after the initial hiring of a Negro, others have been hired without question. In no case has any employer indicated that he suffered loss, inconvenience or other disadvantages because of changing his policy or practices in connection with the hiring of minorities. It seems reasonable to assume that if any employer or group of employers felt aggrieved they would not hesitate to inform the Commission about it.

An opportunity to know members of minority groups in work situations has greatly increased mutual respect. Social groups associated with places of employment are frequently integrated. Athletic teams are representative of all segments of workers.

After public housing was brought under the coverage of the Public Accommodations Act, many projects were gradually integrated. A study published by the Commission showed conclusively that white people living in all white projects favored segregation while white people who had the experience of living in integrated projects were more inclined to condone integration. In other words, experience in living together tended to dispel misconceptions about members of minority groups. A number of studies made elsewhere confirm the fact that a favorable change in attitude results from personal contact.

### JESUIT BLAMES ADULTS

OVERT resistance to school desegregation rarely appears

among high school students "independent of adult encouragement," says Jesuit sociologist Father James F. Muldowney, assistant professor of sociology at Wheeling (West Virginia) College. In his report to the American Catholic Sociological Society on his study of five unidentified communities in five different states which had compulsory racial segregation before the Supreme Court's 1954 decision, Father Muldowney said that peaceful desegregation did not depend so much on the size of the community, its population distribution, or "even the actual proportion of Negroes to whites." More important, he said, "is the definition of the [Negro-white] proportion in the minds of white people."

The worst climate for desegregation, the priest found, was a "predominantly rural area with few Negroes living in segregated sections, and which had been forced to mix white and colored children by local court order."

The best prospect for easy adjustment would be found in "a large city with a clear residential segregation and with more than a quarter of the population Negro, which had voluntarily accepted the Supreme Court's decision to desegregate," Father Muldowney reported.

The report said that academic differences between the white and Negro children "was not a significant factor in the ease or difficulty of the transition" in the communities Father Muldowney studied. Another point made in the report was that desegregation was more successful in those places where the teachers

themselves had already been professionally desegregated.

Father Muldowney said school authorities in the communities he studied agreed that "early publicity" of desegregation had an adverse effect because it "complicated the situation and restricted the decision-making powers of those responsible for making the change." He also found that local school policies will be helped or hindered by policy set at the state level.

### "THE CHAMP"

"A CHUBBY eight-year-old girl has just become the youngest sports champion in the world," writes Barrie Harding (*Daily Mirror*, London, England, November 17, 1958). "She is Joy Foster of Kingston, Jamaica."

"Her game is table tennis. And once Joy gets a grip on a bat there is little her adult opponents can see of her.

"For most of her is below table-top level. But with fierce forehand smashes and backhand flicks, Joy has become Queen of all Jamaica in table tennis.

"Joy was the youngest competitor at the Jamaican national championships by a margin of ten years, but—

"She won the Women's Singles title by beating Madge Bond, twenty-year-old housewife, 21-12, 21-15.

"Then, with Mrs. Bond, she won the Women's Doubles 21-12, 21-14.

"And later she teamed with West Indian champion Fuarnado Roberts to win the Mixed Doubles.

"Joy took the game up two years ago. She was coached by her father, Audley Foster, 44, a clerk.

# Along the N.A.A.C.P. Battlefront

## ANNUAL MEETING

**F**OR the first time in its 49-year history, income from all sources to the NAACP exceeded one million dollars, Roy Wilkins, executive secretary, reported to the Association's annual meeting in New York City on January 5.

He recalled that in 1953, Dr. Channing H. Tobias, chairman of the Association's Board of Directors, "spurred us to adopt a freedom campaign with a goal of \$1,000,000 a year to wipe out discrimination by 1963, the centennial of the Emancipation Proclamation.

"I am very happy to announce," the NAACP leader said, "that although it took us five years to reach Dr. Tobias' target, we did have, in 1958, a million-dollar year. Bear in mind that the figures I quote are through December 22 only. They include monies which came to the national office only, not the funds raised and retained by the branches. The final report for the entire year will have to include the receipts and expenditures of December 23 through December 31, together with certain year-end adjustments. But the December 22 figures are as follows:

"From all sources — \$1,017,471.15.

"This is broken down as follows: general fund income, \$803,434.89; life memberships, \$177,330.27 (net); and bequests, \$36,705.99."

Only the general fund monies are available for regular operations of the Association, Mr. Wilkins pointed out. "The bequests go into a reserve fund to be voted out only by Board action. A percentage of the life membership funds is transferred each year to the general fund, but the rest is held in reserve, subject to vote of the Board for emergencies or special projects.

"Of our general fund total," the NAACP leader continued, "the branch memberships accounted for \$347,227 and the branch contributions to the Freedom Fund accounted for \$109,946 or a total of \$457,224. A net total of \$88,153 came from members-at-large, contributors, and fund raising activities. The net income from the sale of Holiday Seals was \$60,645. The branches sent in \$99,735 for subscriptions to our official magazine, *The Crisis*.

"Against this total general fund income of \$803,434, we spent or appropriated a total of \$829,617, leaving a deficit of \$26,183. However, during the year \$25,000 was ordered by the Board to be transferred to the

general fund from reserves, so that the final deficit amounts to \$1,183.  
"In 1957, through December 20, our deficit was \$52,734."

### WASHINGTON BUREAU

**A** chief concern of the NAACP Washington Bureau in 1958, reported director Clarence Mitchell, were efforts to defeat proposals to curb the jurisdiction and powers of the U.S. Supreme Court.

Although segregationists and other critics of the Court "came perilously close to victory in the Congress," the bureau was able to rally enough support to defeat the anti-Court drive, Mr. Mitchell asserted. Also defeated was a bill to limit the use of the writ of habeas corpus. The bill passed the House, but the Senate refused to act on it.

The writ of habeas corpus, the NAACP official pointed out, "has been the traditional method of raising the issue of constitutionality of the detention of a person by a state. Since the issue involved in the use of such a writ is whether or not the person detained is being deprived of a federal constitutional right, it is only proper and logical that the federal courts should rule on this question."

This is vitally important, he said, "in view of the widespread movement in some areas to limit the rights of colored citizens. To have a state judge, popularly elected and subject to local prejudices and pressures, and not subject to federal review by habeas corpus, ruling on the constitutional rights of colored citizens places these citizens in grave peril of being denied any semblance of a fair hearing."

The lack of non-discrimination clauses in appropriations for school construction in defense-impacted areas has resulted in the use of federal funds to build jim crow schools in Pulaski County, Ark., and Huntsville, Ala., Mr. Mitchell reported. The NAACP has consistently sought the inclusion of such clauses in all federal aid to school bills and similar legislation.

However, the Association was successful, Mr. Mitchell asserted, in obtaining an "agreement from a number of government agencies to include non-discrimination clauses in licenses and concession agreements."

### DEPARTMENT OF BRANCHES

**G**LOSTER B. CURRENT, director of branches, reported that despite the impact of the recession in industrial areas and in the face of continuing resistance and hostility in the South, the 1958 membership of the NAACP showed a ten per cent increase over 1957.

Total membership in the organization as of December 19 amounted to 305,518—an increase of 24,491 over the total as of December 20, 1957. Unreported memberships for the remainder of December, 1958, are expected to increase the final 1958 total to at least 320,000.

"The decline in the Association's membership which took place in 1957

has been arrested," Mr. Current asserted. "This decline was caused by attacks on the southern units, loss of some states, and oppressive measures." Heroic efforts by all units of the Association in 1958 overcame these obstacles and surmounted the difficulties arising out of widespread unemployment in the major industrial centers during the year, he declared.

### NAACP COUNSEL

**N**AACP general counsel Robert L. Carter reported that segregation as a way of life in the United States is dead.

"It may well take many years to bury it, but it is dead," the lawyer said. "Anyone who doubts it need only read the decision of the United States Supreme Court in the Little Rock case. It told the segregationists that it would not back down from its position in 1954 that racial segregation violated the Constitution of the United States."

In his prepared report to the members and officers of the Association, Mr. Carter declared that "1958 has probably been the most significant year since 1954 in terms of important decisions affecting the work of the NAACP." He cited the Little Rock decision and rulings in two other cases involving the right of the Association to function as an organization in Alabama and the right of the NAACP to institute a test case challenging bus segregation in St. Louis.

The unanimous decision handed down in the Little Rock case on September 29, he said, made it "clear that our courts cannot permit the constitutional rights of Negro children to non-discriminatory education to be thwarted by threats of public violence or disorder, by adverse community sentiment, threats of school closings or disruption of the public educational system, or by other evasive schemes aimed at the preservation of racial segregation."

As a result of this decision, Mr. Carter asserted, there can no longer be any doubt "that massive resistance cannot succeed." Moreover, he said, "the NAACP must sponsor more litigation to end segregation in public schools and in other public facilities in 1959 than ever."

### "INK Fund"

**T**HE Legal Defense and Educational Fund, Inc., N.A.A.C.P., reported two critical issues in 1958 which determined whether the Association would continue to advance steadily in the movement towards full equality, or falter. Both involved the widely advertised efforts of state governments to interpose their alleged power against federal constitutional rights.

In both, interposition, which has been a favorite in the field of political rhetoric, failed in the courtroom. The more dramatic of the struggles involved the assertion of Arkansas that desegregation at Little Rock should stop for two and a half years because of violence stimulated and nourished by Governor Faubus.

The United States Supreme Court in the Little Rock case, which was presented by attorneys for the NAACP Legal Defense Fund, held that:

The constitutional rights of children not to be discriminated against in school admission on grounds of race or color . . . can neither be nullified openly and directly by state legislators or state executive or judicial officers, nor nullified indirectly by them through evasive schemes for segregation whether attempted 'ingeniously or ingenuously.'

And the court added "No state legislator or executive can war against the Constitution without violating his undertaking to support it."

The second test of interposition has been the effort of a number of southern states to crush community organizations which are engaged in gaining civil rights, aimed principally at the NAACP, though directed also against other groups, and to cut off Negro access to the federal courts which, as a practical matter, can be exercised only with organized, specialized support, in the forefront of which is the NAACP Legal Defense Fund. These attempts to stifle protest of the normal, legal, orderly sort that always has marked progress in America also have failed. The most telling blow was struck by a United States three-judge district court in Virginia in a suit vindicating, among other things, the right of the NAACP Legal Defense Fund to support civil rights cases in court.

At a third point the defeat of another stronghold of intransigence is developing. This obstruction is the threat to turn public schools over to so-called private education so that it can continue the segregation. In reality no such system of private education is feasible without heavy state aid, which then belies the characterization of "private." Of course, once such state aid is given, the Fourteenth Amendment clearly forbids segregation. This also was established in Little Rock where the United States Court of Appeals enjoined the Little Rock School Board from leasing the Little Rock public schools to an alleged private corporation.

## TWO WOMEN ELECTED

**M**RS. DORETHA A. COMBRE, president of the Louisiana State Conference of NAACP Branches, and Betty Lou Burleigh, president of the University of Pittsburgh branch, have been elected to the Association's national board of directors.

Re-elected to serve three-year terms as Association Directors were Kelly M. Alexander, Charlotte, N. C.; Dr. W. Montague Cobb, Washington, D. C.; Dr. Nathan K. Christopher, Cleveland; Earl B. Dickerson, Chicago; Dr. George D. Flemmings, Fort Worth, Texas; Dr. Buell Gallagher, New York City; Dr. Harry J. Greene, Philadelphia; Mrs. Lillie M. Jackson, Baltimore; Judge Theodore Spaulding, Philadelphia; William R. Ming, Chicago; Commissioner Robert C. Weaver, New York City; and Samuel A. Williams, East Orange, N. J.

Results of the election conducted among NAACP branches throughout the country were announced, following counting of the ballots, at the As-



sociation's 49th annual meeting here on Jan. 5. The meeting was attended by 300 officers and members from all sections of the country who assembled to hear reports from members of the NAACP staff.

At the meeting of the Board which was held immediately after the annual meeting the following officers were reelected: president, Arthur B. Spingarn; chairman of the Board, Dr. Channing H. Tobias; vice-chairman, Robert C. Weaver; treasurer, Alfred Baker Lewis; assistant treasurer, Judge Theodore Spaulding; executive secretary, Roy Wilkins; and as vice presidents, M. T. Blanton, Rabbi Judah Cahn, Norman Cousins, John Wesley Dobbs, Mrs. Grace B. Fenderson, Lewis S. Gannett, Oscar Hammerstein II, John Hammond, Dr. John Haynes Holmes, Dr. William Lloyd Imes, Dr. Allen F. Jackson, Judge Ira W. Jayne, Eugene Martin, Dr. O. Clay Maxwell, Miss L. Pearl Mitchell, Senator Wayne Morse, T. G. Nutter, A. Philip Randolph, Ike Smalls, Bishop W. J. Walls, and Andrew D. Weinberger.

### OTHER ANNUAL REPORTS

**O**THER staff members submitting reports to the forty-ninth annual meeting included: James W. Ivy, editor of *The Crisis*, official organ of the NAACP; Herbert Hill, NAACP labor secretary; Reverend Edward J. Odom, Jr., church secretary; Herbert L. Wright, youth secretary; and Henry Lee Moon, director of public relations.

Executive secretary Roy Wilkins summarized the spirit of this the forty-ninth meeting in these words:

"We enter our Golden Anniversary 50th year with pride, but also with determination, not resting on what we have done, magnificent as that is, but full of the conviction that our crusade, because it is right, because it is demonstratic and because it is American in the finest sense of that term, must be crowned with success."

## THE NAACP GOLDEN JUBILEE

1909 — 1959



**DON'T FRET—FIGHT BY JOINING THE NAACP  
TO MAKE THE NEGRO FREE BY '63**



# What the Branches Are Doing

*California:* A policy meeting of west coast NAACP leaders resulted in a detailed statement for legislative enactments on fair employment, equal housing, and fair educational practices.

Existing California laws forbids racial discrimination in the sale of insurance coverage. Evidence at hand, however, indicates that there is widespread discrimination, particularly in the extension of public liability and property damage insurance for automobile owners. Discrimination also extends to administration of the so-called Assigned Risk Plan.

*Kansas:* Phil Myles, son of Wm. O. Myles, Sr., a long active member of the KANSAS CITY branch, was elected president of the senior class at Westport high school. Election of the 16-year-old athlete was the crowning laurel of an already impressive array of distinctions which he has enjoyed during his high-school career.

Mrs. Myles wept when she heard the news of her son. Phil is one of thirty Negro youths enrolled in Westport high, and his election has provoked looks of both astonishment and pride from Negroes and whites alike.

*Kentucky:* Charles W. Anderson, Jr., LOUISVILLE attorney, received an out-of-court settlement in December against the Southmoor Hotel, 6646 Stony Island, Chicago, Illinois, for racial discrimination when the hotel refused to honor a confirmed reservation made by Attorney Anderson for September 11, 1958. The hotel paid Attorney Anderson \$300 and he immediately paid \$225 of it on an NAACP life membership to the Louisville branch. "I cannot explain the unfortunate conduct of the clerk on duty or of the manager," said Solomon E. Harrison of the hotel's executive office in a letter of apology. "The latter was recently engaged by us and came with a background of downtown hotel experience. The clerk's background is unknown to me. . . . I sincerely apologize to you for what happened. . . ."

*Louisiana:* The LAKE CHARLES branch held a "King Coronation Contest" recently, with J. C. Syas being crowned king. Rukin Jones was a runner-up.

*Maryland:* Mrs. Verda F. Welcome of the BALTIMORE branch was sworn in in January as a member of the Maryland House of Delegates. Mrs. Welcome, the wife of Dr. Henry C. Welcome, has long been active in women's interracial, and civic organizations.



Cecil Layne

*THE Royal Entertaining Partners, Inc., presented a \$500 check representing full payment for an NAACP life membership during a special luncheon which the group held on November 16, 1958, at Frazier's Restaurant in New York City. This 50-member club recently celebrated its 39th year. Pictured from L are Malcolm Alston, secretary; Harry C. Smith, recording secretary; Sidney Cusberin, treasurer; Mildred Bond, NAACP life membership representative; A. G. Foster and Ernest B. Simond.*

**Massachusetts:** Benjamin Sayles of the MERRIMACK VALLEY branch brought in 106 members as a one-man membership committee.

**Michigan:** The GRAND RAPIDS youth council re-elected the following officers: Edward Holmes, president; Earl Washington, first vice-president; Eli Lumpkins, second vice-president; Calol Patterson, secretary; and Cedric Ward, treasurer.

**Nevada:** Topic of the December 14 meeting of the RENO-SPARKS branch was "Nevada's Churchmen Look at Our Civil Rights." The Protestant churches were represented by Rev. Amon Johnson, Faith Lutheran Church of Reno, and the Washoe County Ministerial Alliance; the Catholic

diocese by Rev. Father Edmund J. Boyle and St. Thomas Aquinas Parish; and the Jewish community by Dr. Samuel Ornstein and Temple Emanu El of Reno.

*New York:* The president of the CENTRAL LONG ISLAND branch reports almost 800 members. He reports the following NAACP life members: Holy Trinity Baptist Church, Bethel AME Church, Dr. George Nicklin, Philip McCall, and Neomi Breach.

More than 50 representatives from labor unions and civic groups picketed the Bronx branch store of Sears, Roebuck & Co. during December. The picket line was ordered by the BRONX branch of the NAACP when the Sears management refused a request to discuss the store's policy on hiring Negro and Puerto Rican sales personnel.

*Pennsylvania:* PHILADELPHIA branch campaign leaders are pleased with the report on their first area mass meeting, co-chaired by Mrs. Regina Black and E. Washington Rhodes.

The Philadelphia branch has announced that it will intervene in the police brutality case against the Madison family. The incident took place on Thanksgiving Day when the police entered his home and beat up those attending a dinner, including his pregnant wife Mary, his nephew Lester Bryant, and Madison himself.

*Virginia:* The RICHMOND branch is distributing, at twenty-five cents a copy, "The Myth of States' Rights," by June Purcell Guild.

SOME of the members of the Churches for Freedom Committee of Omaha, Nebraska, present NAACP life payments for eight local churches to Rev. E. J. Odom, Jr., NAACP church secretary. Pictured from L are reverends Thompson, Parker, Sykes; Dr. Aaron McMillan; reverends Odom, branch president, L. W. M. McVoy, Wade, Williams, Ransom, and Curtis Brown.



*Wisconsin:* Roy Wilkins was principal speaker at the thirty-ninth annual dinner meeting of the MILWAUKEE branch at the Pfister Hotel on December 11. Some 300 persons attended.

The Milwaukee branch reports two notable achievements for the year 1958. First, there is the establishment of a working relationship with the churches in the Negro community; the second, a working relationship with some local labor unions.

Recognition was given by the branch to Rev. John Bradford, president Interdenominational Ministerial Alliance; Rev. E. B. Phillips, public affairs chairman of IMA; and Rev. L. S. Beauchamp, president Wisconsin Baptist Convention. Cooperation between the NAACP and these ministers made these gains possible: four churches became NAACP subscribing life members (Galilee Baptist, Tabernacle Baptist, Calvary Baptist, and St. Marks AME), seventeen churches participated in the 1958 membership campaign, as well as in the registration and vote campaign, and commemoration service on May 17 under sponsorship of the Ministerial Alliance.

In education the Milwaukee branch conferred with assistant superintendent in charge of curriculum in the Milwaukee public schools on the alleged use of stereotyped dolls in the kindergarten, and initiated a project to review elementary-level social studies texts to see how the American Negro is presented.

## THE NAACP GOLDEN JUBILEE

1909 — 1959

★ ★ ★

**DON'T FRET—FIGHT BY JOINING THE NAACP  
TO MAKE THE NEGRO FREE BY '63**

★ ★ ★

***Plan Now to Attend***

**THE 50th ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION  
OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE**

# College and School News

MEHARRY MEDICAL COLLEGE dental graduate, Sara A. Lee, '45, is now running a successful dental clinic in Accra, Ghana. More than 3,000 visits have been made to the clinic since April 1, 1958.

The Guggenheim Museum of New York City has loaned TALLADEGA COLLEGE and exhibition of drawings by modern masters for showing February 1-20.

College choirs from UNITED NEGRO COLLEGE FUND schools in Mississippi, Tennessee, and Louisiana — Tougaloo Southern, Lane, and Fisk — were heard over the ABC Radio Network during the month of January.

Mrs. Sara Booker Turner, head of the department of music and director of the choir at TOUGALOO SOUTHERN CHRISTIAN COLLEGE for over eleven years, died in Chicago, Illinois, on November 26, 1958, after several months illness. She was buried on December 7, 1958.

The United States has imperiled some of its world leadership because it has fallen into patterns of nineteenth-century nationalism, said noted historian Henry Steele Commager in an address at THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN.

He cited these indications of nationalism:

The growth of statism which levies and controls science for national security.

The invasion of civilian life by the military. "This is not done in a

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**DIRECTOR of ADMISSIONS and PLACEMENT**

deliberate fashion, but because it is no longer possible to distinguish between the military and the civilian."

The aggravation of national and ideological antipathies. "There is nothing in our own past history like the U.S. fear of and hatred of Russia and Communist China."

The growth of cultural chauvinism. One example, he noted, was undue concentration on the teaching of American history.

The growth of nativism. This is exemplified in the current official immigration policy which shows a preference for certain types of peoples.

These developments are contrary to the U.S. tradition, he emphasized, and have "cost us some world leadership in the minds and hearts of the Western world."

"Europeans no longer look at us

as the champions of democracy and liberalism as they did in the 19th Century.

"Our indulgence of McCarthyism, treatment of the Negro, rigid passport policy, and our backing of Chaing Kai-shek make it increasingly difficult for us to maintain a stand against chauvinistic nationalism."

Attorney Wiley A. Branton of Little Rock fame was featured speaker at the annual founders' banquet of the 45th Grand Conclave of the OMEGA PSI PHI held in Cleveland, Ohio, December 27-30.

THE CARVER FOUNDATION of Tuskegee Institute is offering graduate research fellowships in chemistry, foods and nutrition, and plant

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physiology. They are available to students with high scholastic records and who have received the bachelor of science degree from an accredited college and who show promise of research ability.

ATLANTA UNIVERSITY has been notified that for the third successive summer it will receive a grant from the National Science Foundation for support of a summer institute in science and mathematics. The \$64,300 grant will be used to pay stipends, tuition and other fees, and board and room for a selected group of secondary school teachers of biology, chemistry, and mathematics.

Ira E. Harisson, a graduate student at Atlanta, has been notified that his poem "When Silence Came" has been accepted for publication in the *Annual Anthology of College Poetry*.

H. Ernest LaFontant, who received his master of science degree from Atlanta in '46 and a law degree

later from the John Marshall Law School, Chicago, has been admitted to the Illinois bar.

SPELMAN COLLEGE was among fourteen colleges in the southern states accepted for full membership in the Southern Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools at the annual meeting of the SACSC held in Louisville, Kentucky, December 1-4.

MORGAN STATE COLLEGE formally dedicated the Theodore R. McKeldin Student Union Building, named in honor of the popular retiring governor of Maryland, on December 17, 1958. The \$300,000 split-level structure will serve as a social, cultural, and recreational center for Morgan students and faculty.

The National Science Foundation has awarded Morgan \$69,400 to sponsor a summer institute for high school teachers of science.

Morgan scientists doctors Thomas P. Fraser and Roger K. Williams participated in the Washington, December 27-28, meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Elijah O. Odokara, a native of Nigeria, has received a doctor of theology degree from St. Andrews University College, London. Mr. Odokara is candidate for a bachelor of science degree in chemical engineering from KANSAS STATE COLLEGE.



DILLARD UNIVERSITY has been awarded a March of Dimes grant of \$168,000 to expand and enrich its nurse education program. The grant is for a three-year period.

Dean Howard Thurman of BOSTON UNIVERSITY's Marsh Chapel delivered four addresses at the regional convocation of Methodist Youths of the Southern California-Arizona and California-Nevada Conference, at the University of Redlands, Redland, California, December 29-January 1.

What happens when a community of 60,000 persons is forced to move? The story of Africa's Gwembe Valley, which was flooded to build the Kariba Dam, causing 60,000 inhabitants to resettle in already crowded areas, was told in an illustrated lecture at the university faculty club on December 11. Two Cambridge anthropologists, Dr. Elizabeth Colson and Thayer Scudder, conducted the presentation.

An exhibition honoring the 84th birthday of Dr. Albert Schweitzer was on display during the month of January at the Cheney Library in the university's college of liberal arts.

The Lilly Endowment, Inc., has granted \$20,000 to the library of the school of religion of VIRGINIA UNION UNIVERSITY for the purchase of books.

Approximately fifty oil sketches of the Mohammedan Sulus of the southwest Philippines, by Lucille

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Palmer, were on exhibit at the Corner Gallery of THE AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, December 10-January 25. Mrs. Palmer and her husband lived six months among the Sulus in 1957.

JOHNSON C. SMITH UNIVERSITY has received a gift of \$2,500 from the R. J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, the university's share in a \$15,000 contribution made by the company to the United Negro College Fund.

Joseph P. Clinton of Chester, South Carolina, who died on November 6, has left the university \$5,000 to be known as The Joseph P. and Hattie C. Clinton Memorial Fund to be used to assist deserving and needy students.

SHAW UNIVERSITY celebrated its ninety-third founder's day on November 21 with the traditional grave



side ceremony at the tomb of founder Henry Martin Tupper. Principal speaker for the anniversary was Dr. James L. Martin, physician, of Philadelphia.

Shaw was designated as a testing center for the 1959 nationwide administration of the National Teacher Examinations in February.

KANSAS STATE COLLEGE's all-American basketball star, Bob Boozer, has been named "Favorite Man on Campus" by KSC co-eds from among twenty-four young men nominated by twenty-two fraternities and two independent houses.

Sixty-three students were included on the mid-semester honor roll at LIVINGSTONE COLLEGE. Of these twenty-two are freshmen, five sophomores, thirteen juniors, and twenty-three seniors.

Nine Livingstone students have been selected for inclusion in *Who's Who Among Students in American*

#### *Universities and Colleges.*

Livingstone had been authorized to provide testing services for the National Teacher Examination, Graduate Record Examination, Law School Admission Test, and the Medical College Admission Test.

Dr. Frederick D. Patterson, director of the Phelps-Stokes Fund, served as consultant at Livingstone December 16-18.

VIRGINIA STATE COLLEGE has received a grant of \$76,800 from the National Science Foundation to conduct an institute for high school teachers of general science.

One hundred and one students were on the honor roll at Virginia State for the second semester of the 1957-58 school year.

Virginia State has been designated as a testing center for the 1959 nationwide administration of the National Teacher Examination to be given in February.

## THE NAACP GOLDEN JUBILEE

1909 — 1959

★ ★ ★

**DON'T FRET—FIGHT BY JOINING THE NAACP  
TO MAKE THE NEGRO FREE BY '63**



Baltimore, Maryland, Social Association of Fire Fighters presents NAACP memberships to local branch executive secretary Bowen Jackson (3rd from L). Charles Thomas, president of the SAFF, is presenting the check.



Rev. Charles H. Churn, pastor of the Union Temple Baptist church, Baltimore, presents a \$125 check to Baltimore branch president Mrs. Lillie Jackson for the NAACP fight for freedom fund.



Leroy Jones of the Harlem Park Home Owners Association, Baltimore, makes a payment on its NAACP life membership to Mrs. Lillie Jackson of the Baltimore, Maryland, branch.

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Clifford Stevens (L), president Merry Makers, Columbus, Ohio, presents \$500 to Mrs. Eva Manuel, chairman Columbus branch freedom fund campaign. Mrs. Manuel is turning the check over to Dr. Owen Walker, branch treasurer. This \$500 was part of \$1,700 collected at branch's "Fashions for Freedom" show.



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Francis Turner (2nd from R), president of the Reveille Club of New York City, receives the Club's NAACP life membership plaque from NAACP executive secretary Roy Wilkins. Looking on are (from L) Ralph Thomas, Wilmer Lucas, and Roger Flood (R).



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Rev. C. Edward Browne, pastor of the Memorial Church, presents a \$500 NAACP life membership check to Baltimore, Maryland, branch president Mrs. Lillie Jackson in the presence of Mrs. Browne.



# Book Reviews

## NIGHTMARE EXPERIENCES

*The Long Dream.* A novel by Richard Wright. Garden City, New York: Doubleday & Co., 1958. 384 pp. \$3.95.

Richard Wright's fifth work of fiction since he became a writer to be reckoned with with the publication twenty years ago of *Uncle Tom's Children* puts the nightmare experiences of a middle-class Negro undertaker and his son in terms of a long dream. Born Rex Tucker, but known as "Fishbelly," the tortured protagonist in this novel of terrible truth resurrects the fear-charged atmosphere worked with fresh effectiveness in *Native Son*. Here, however, is greater detail and the progress of a father-son relationship as determined by the racial culture pattern of the Deep South.

Fishbelly's lecherous and successful father, Tyree, has established himself as the first Negro of Clintonville, indeed, the "good nigger" who is allowed to prosper (at the expense of his ghetto) because his acceptance of jim-crow regimen tends further to stabilize southern mores. It therefore becomes Tyree's fatherly duty to teach his son the realities of Dixie life; but, even beyond the course Tyree marks out for

him, Fishbelly's lessons come hard and fast: a white man reaches out and yanks him into the violent tension of a crap game; policemen torture him into fainting spells; and his Black-Belted community flinches and cowers under the impact of white wrath when a young Negro is lynched for trysting with a white woman.

Yet, for all the harrowing detail crowded into *The Long Dream*, the crux of this novel stems from two basic contentions. These contentions, moreover, constitute the essential moral structure of all Richard Wright's Americana since he launched his distinguished career in 1938. In fact, they are the upright and crossbeam of a crucifix on which he has nailed the American Negro the better to place it upon the literary lawn of the United States and set it afire time and time again.

As to the crossbeam, he charges, rightly, that the white world of the states has put (for the terrorization of the Negro male) a death premium on the body of the white woman. Thus much of his writing has been turned against or toned in defiance of this peculiar institution of values. (Fish-

belly "knew deep in his heart that there would be no peace in his blood until he had defiantly violated the line that the white world had dared him to cross under the threat of death." p. 157). But this cross-beam rests on a more basic upright driven deep into American soil. It is the charge Wright made in the concluding paragraph of his essay explaining the genesis of *Native Son*, "How Bigger Was Born." "We have," he wrote, "only a money-grubbing, industrial civilization."

Thus Canty, Clintonville's police chief whose cut from Tyree's brothels and gambling joints is a hundred ninety dollars weekly (some of which is accepted in the telltale form of checks), personifies this charge. But Wright goes much further than this. He documents the charge by weaving into *The Long Dream* a fictional account of the holocaust of April 24, 1940, in Natchez, Mississippi. So that one wonders where to draw the line between his fact and the fiction. Spanish moss, dry and inflammable, hung on the walls of the Rhythm Nite Club in Natchez when fire gutted it eighteen years ago and took the lives of 215 persons (including that of 33-year-old orchestra leader Walter Barnes), mostly teenagers like Fishbelly. The windows of the club had been boarded against gate-crashers, leaving but one exit. An *Afro-American* newspaper correspondent, Davis Lee, reported seeing 98 bodies at one of two colored undertaking establishments in Natchez, and that a white woman who took flowers to the parlor in memory of her maid dropped the comment that fire officials in Natchez should be sent to the penitentiary for permitting such a fire trap to exist.

With this documented versimilitude, Wright works Tyree around to the selfsame dramatic focus where Taylor, the horse-whipped Negro minister in "Fire and Cloud," one of the four novellas in *Uncle Tom's Children*, stood his ground on the premise that "Free-

dom belongs to the strong." Taylor spoke to a hungry congregation:

Ah know what yo life is! Ah done felt it; Its fire!

Its like the fire that burned me las night! Its suffering! Its hell! Ah cant bear this fire erlone.

Even before this, when Taylor faced his son, Jimmy, after the white men had beaten him, he confessed that a fire seethed all through him, inside and out, and that it was the fire of shame. So stands Tyree twenty years later before his conscience, or the one white friend he finds in Clintonville:

Mr. McWilliams, I can't vote. There ain't no black men in office in this town. We black folks is helpless and all we can do is buy a little protection. If I'm corrupt, who made me corrupt? Who took the bribes? The law, and the law's white. I live in what the white man calls Nigger Town. . . . Mr. McWilliams, I didn't make Nigger Town. White men made it. Aw-right. I say, 'Okay.' But, goddammit, let me live in Nigger Town! And don't call me corrupt when I live the only way I can live. Sure, I did wrong. But my kind of wrong is right; when you have to do wrong to live, wrong is right. . . .

In that bare-nuckled prose beating which Wright (in defense of *Native Son*) administered (in the *Atlantic Monthly* for June, 1940) to David L. Cohn, one of the half dozen or more southern-born journalists and hack writers who attacked the book, the novelist set forth what he yet sees as his mission:

. . . my task is to weigh the effects of our civilization upon the personality, as it affects it *here* and *now*. If, in my weighing of those effects, I reveal rot, pus, filth, hate, fear, guilt, and degenerate forms of life, must I be consigned to hell?

*The Long Dream* illustrates that Richard Wright has aged in indignation and developed a more penetrating satire than ever, but it proves most of all that he would quench the violence set off in him by his overriding sense of fire. It will be remembered that *Black Boy*, the record of his childhood and youth, tells of how he set fire to his mother's curtains and that for this she beat him terribly; that a "huge red bed of coals blazed with molten fury" as Bigger brutally prepared the body of Mary for burning; and that Cross Damon (*The Outsider*) set fire to the Seventh Day Adventist church where he obtained a forged draft-board card.

But *The Long Dream* brings Wright to a kind of dead end in the dark night of the troubled soul. It deals not so well with assertion as does John Killens' *Youngblood* and not better with traumatic experience than Chester Himes' *The Third Generation*. It explains him well, but it falls below his own standard.

HENRY F. WINSLOW  
Morgan State College

***The National Association for the Advancement of Colored People: A Case Study in Pressure Groups.* By Warren D. St. James. New York: Exposition Press, 1958. 252 pp. \$4.00.**

Dr. St. James's book presents a pedestrian piece of well-worked materials that adds nothing new to what is already known about the NAACP. Relying largely upon already published studies and, curiously, making almost no reference to *The Crisis* as a cache of research materials, he has written a most ordinary book. This is a volume reworked from a doctoral dissertation and indications are that very little reworking was done, for it is dry in reading, full of filler material such as direct quotes, excerpts, calls, listing of cases and the like, all of which are old

hat to anyone familiar with the NAACP story. In an elementary sort of way it attempts to analyze a theoretical framework of pressure groups, then talks about the history, operation and organization, policy making, the nature of the pressure it tries to exert, briefly refers to a few cases of prominence, relations with other civil rights groups, and makes its best contribution in the conclusions where it briefly tries to point out some weaknesses—none of which is original or unknown to those long concerned with trying to strengthen the organization. There is a limited bibliography—but no index—rounding out the little volume. Although this is a mediocre book, it has usefulness if it serves to acquaint any segment of the public with the NAACP and what it has done in the continuous struggle of Negroes, sympathetic whites, and others for equal rights for all people, both here and abroad.

HUGH H. SMYTHE

***South Town. A novel by Lorenz Graham.* Chicago: Follett Publishing Co., 1958. 189 pp. \$3.50.**

*South Town* is a fine novel of social history, but with obvious faults on the literary level. The central figures are social types rather than individuals. Since Mr. Graham wishes to reveal the quiet, uneventful lives of ordinary Negroes in the bi-racial society of the Deep South, his people are neither Bigger Thomases nor Aunt Phyllises. Sixteen-year-old David Williams is the protagonist, with his sister Betty Jane, his mother and father Ed Williams, and the local white "big-shot" Harold Boyd playing supporting roles.

David wishes to become a doctor, but this ambition is difficult of achievement for a poor Negro boy in a community like South Town. His father is a thrifty, upright, hardworking man;

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Mrs. Williams is a good wife and mother; David is obedient and industrious. Yet the rectitude and good-behavior of this family, instead of operating to improve their status, are indirectly responsible for their tragedy. You get a hint of it near the beginning of the story when Mrs. Boyd thinks David impudent and "uppity" merely because David expressed doubt that his mother could work for her that Saturday; objection to the Negroes painting their own school; David's status as a worker in Mr. Boyd's garage; and arrest of his father fore-shadow tragedy. There are threats of mob violence; Mr. Williams is brought home from jail a physically bruished man; and the family finally decides, though they own their farm, to move to the city. Even Mr. Hodges last-minute repentance does not make the family change its mind. So the Williams family drive off from South Town to seek a greater measure of freedom.

*South Town* is the work of a sympathetic writer who understands the South and the tragic that is always present in southern Negro experience.

J.W.I.

#### PORTUGUESE COLONIALISM

*Portugal's African "Wards"—A First-Hand Report on Labor and Education in Mozambique.* By Marvin Harris. New York: American Committee on Africa, Inc., 1958. Africa Today Pamphlets: 2. 36 pp. 50¢.

Dr. Marvin Harris of the department of anthropology at Columbia University, whose books on Brazil are well known, now turns his attention to the Portuguese colony of Mozambique in southeast Africa. Portugal in theory grants political freedom and privilege to Africans without discrimination, but in practice the theory has not yet worked. Make the Africans work seems to be the motto of Portuguese colonial policy. Behind this is the fact, "admit-

ting exceptions, the clear majority of whites in Mozambique regard the Negro as inferior and accept his inferior social position as irrefutable proof of the fact." To the Portuguese the Africans "are literally children despite their biological ability to achieve adulthood."

These "children" are ruled through the *indigenato*—"an elaborate complex of juridical and administrative controls . . . [which rest] "upon the juridico-philosophical doctrine that the mass of Africans are culturally, linguistically, morally and intellectually unprepared to exercise Portuguese citizenship." There is forced labor and raids on the villages for able-bodied men, forced crops, a nine-o'clock curfew which forbids the Africans to leave their homes, the "ability of the administrative personnel" to designate Africans as "undesirables" when they become a "a threat to the established order" (they are then deported to the island of São Tomé), the requirement that all employed natives carry passbooks with them at all times, use of the *palmatório* (a thick wooden disk with holes which sucks up the flesh of the palm) as punishment for impudence and disobedience, and discouragement of African education. Dr. Harris writes: "No African has ever completed the full seven year *Liceu* program in Mozambique," and that there is only one African, among the six million in Mozambique, with a university degree.

Though separated by thousands of miles from Portugal, the colonies are considered integral parts of the metropolitan country. Every one who is not a native or *indigena* is a Portuguese with full citizenship rights. But there are only some 5,000 *assimilados*, so-called citizens, in Mozambique out of a population of nearly six million. The impressions visitors get of Mozambique as "a haven of racial harmony" is unfounded, and the *indigenato* in practice is another form of *apartheid*.



The first documented survey on conditions of forced labor in Portuguese Africa to be published in the United States in thirty years.

# PORTUGAL'S AFRICAN "WARDS"

*A First-Hand Report  
on Labor and Education  
in Mozambique*

**50**  
CENTS

An AFRICA TODAY PAMPHLET by Marvin Harris  
Assistant Professor of Anthropology, Columbia University

Professor Harris describes many of the most alarming features of Portugal's present day policies in Africa in this 36-page, documented report on forced labor and education written following a year of research in Mozambique. It is evident from a reading of these pages that *apartheid* in neighboring South Africa is a sickly child in comparison with the highly efficient complex of legislation the Portuguese have developed to control the African population in their colonies.

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Portugal's African "Wards," obviously, demolishes Gilberto Freyre's "lusotropicalism," although this was not Dr. Harris's original intent. Freyre's theory is that the Portuguese know better how to deal with non-white, tropical peoples than the Anglo-Saxons, that they are "the most Christian of modern colonizers in their relations with peoples considered inferior," that they have a penchant for miscibility and are fond of colored women. As Freyre expounds his formula it is a concept, a theory, a system, and a method of colonization. Both his *The World the Portuguese Created* (1940) and *Masters and Slaves* expound this thesis. And he elaborates it in *A Brazilian in Portuguese Lands* and *Adventure and Routine* (both published in Brazil in 1953) after a visit, including Mozambique, to Overseas Portugal in 1951-52. He does not examine the social and economic life of Mozambique or elsewhere. The realities in Mozambique certainly upset his luso-tropical *schéma*. "Racism is not the product of the temperament of a particular cultural or biological complex," explains Dr. Harris. It is a phenomenon which is produced in relation to fairly well-defined circumstances of a socio-economic nature. . . . The fact that the Portuguese people have in other times and places created benevolent interracial systems affords slight solace to the millions of Africans whose lives have been made miserable by the present colonial policy."

JAMES W. IVY

**WHERE SHALL WE LIVE?** Report of the Commission on Race and Housing. Berkeley and Los Angeles: University of California Press, 1958. ix+77 pp. \$1.50.

This report by the Commission on Race and Housing calls for an immediate end to "the evil of housing discrimination" in America.

The Commission on Race and Housing is an independent citizens' group

formed in 1955 to inquire into problems of residence and housing involving racial and ethnic minorities in the United States. Financial support for the work came from the Fund for the Republic.

The report calls on federal, state and local governments, the housing industry and voluntary associations of citizens to "take certain definite steps to purge our national life of the evil of housing discrimination."

About 27 million Americans, or nearly one-sixth of the national population, find restricted opportunities to live in neighborhoods of their choice because of their race, color or ethnic attachment, according to the report. This includes 18.7 million nonwhite persons (95% Negroes), 2.5 million persons of Mexican ancestry, chiefly in the southwestern states, an estimated 800,000 Puerto Ricans, and 5 million Jews.

Jews are excluded from residence areas "on occasion," the report said, adding that "anti-Semitic discrimination in the United States is not comparable in pervasiveness and severity to the discrimination practiced against non-writes."

The report adds:

"It is not surprising that barriers to equal housing opportunity should be among the most stubborn which minority groups must face. Housing is more than physical shelter. Where a person lives bespeaks his social status, which, broadly, he shares with others who occupy the same neighborhood."

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**Durban: A Study in Racial Ecology.** By L. Kuper, Hilstan Watts, and Ronald Davies. With an Introduction by Alan Paton. New York: Columbia University Press, 1958. 243 pp. \$3.75.

Although most attention today is focussed on the African-Afrikaner relationship in the apartheid program of South Africa, one must not forget that the Indian there is also an important element in this most serious of all racial problems in the modern world. *Durban* is a sociological study that places this Asian population in its proper perspective, doing so with finesse and fact. Here one finds one of the most readable, yet scientific analyses available of implications of the extreme segregation program as it pertains to the Indian in the area of the Union where the vast majority of them are concentrated. The volume probes into

the pertinent aspects of all of the people of Durban—economic aspects, vital statistics, religion, language, variation between and within the races, residential ecology, what “group areas” mean, segregation both theoretical and functional, income, as well as prospects for the future.

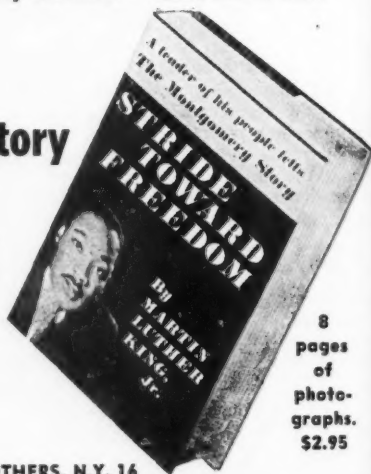
Pulling no punches, and unlike so many other studies of conditions in the Union, these South African authors have not been afraid to take a stand and point out the inevitable failure of this senseless policy the Afrikaner government insists upon pushing. The study points out how the colored groups in general are the helpless objects of the ruthless, inhumane, patently selfish policy being advocated, and how the Indian in particular, because of his large investment, both in people and property, is the most victimized of all.

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